

“Our job is not to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. Our job is to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless.”
~ LB Knost

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Rogue Valley Community Press

FREE

Medford teachers on strike!

BY JASON HOUK

Last minute efforts of state mediators hoping to avert a strike were dashed last week as the 600 teachers of the Medford Education Association walked out of the classrooms and onto the picket line.

“Our negotiating team did not sleep last night as we wrestled with numbers and various scenarios that we hoped would meet our students’ long-term needs and still satisfy teachers,” writes Phil Long, Superintendent Medford School District 549C on Feb. 6th.

In the latest rounds of negotiations, both Medford teachers and District have exchanged and rejected bargaining proposals.

The key issues that continue to hold up settlement include compensation and demands on working conditions, including prep times, caseload and class sizes.

“The working conditions put forward in the Association’s proposal are critical to the teachers’ ability to adequately serve their students, parents, and the community,” according to MEA press release. “Keeping the current standards of working and giving the teaching professionals a voice in their schools is a no-cost offer.”

In response to the MEA’s latest offer, the District warned in a statement, “The union wants rigid rules on preparation time that cut into class time for students.”

The breakdown in relations between the Medford teachers and their District have been brewing since early last year.

“We started negotiating last March, the collaborative bargaining approach was very effective for us the last negotiations and we had hopes that would be the same here. Clearly the district had different plans all along,” explains Lisa North an instructional coach with 17 years experience.

After five months of bargaining the district requested contract mediation, a bargaining option provided by state law which allows either side to ask for assistance from an impartial third party.

“About a year ago we started this process with interest based bargaining.... the district after 74 days got tired of that and walked away and said we are going to traditional bargaining, where you sit as opposing teams and trade things back and forth.” said

STRIKE, 10

Rogue Valley social justice review: 14 causes for 2014

BY JASON & VANESSA HOUK

Your Resource Unlimited calendar is flipped to the second month of a brand new year. Your sparkly red cape is hanging in your closet as you’ve been resting for a little while, but the world’s full of problems that need your attention. It’s a good time to reflect on some of the issues that will be in the forefront in 2014. One of our missions here at the Rogue Valley Community Press is to act as a catalyst to promote positive change or as some folks might see it, to rile some of you up! We’ve put together a short list of issues and causes that we think deserve more focus in 2014. It isn’t a comprehensive list by any means and it’s in no particular order, but it’s a jumping off place for Rogue Valley activists and concerned citizens alike and we hope that it might inspire some of you to dust that red cape off and get involved.



Climate Change

Many people agree that climate change could prove to be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. Recent years have shown increasing temperatures, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns worldwide. Here in the Rogue Valley we can watch the steady influence of increased warming, milder winters and changes in animal migrations. While our community moves forward on a \$3.5 million dollar expansion of Mt. Ashland ski facilities, the same folks are praying for snow. In the Tulelake area near the Oregon

border, farm water supplies are “coming right down to the wire,” said Klamath Water Users Association executive director Greg Addington. “Essentially, we had a water allocation that was quite a bit less than what farmers need. We’re 25 percent to 35 percent short of what we need.”

“Klamath Basin farmers have conserved water to try to close the supply gap and have resorted to pumping groundwater as their only temporary safety valve to get through the tough times, Addington said. “Well levels are dropping ... we’re seeing a 10-foot to 20-foot drawdown. We’ve got a little bit of our surface water allocation left, but it’s coming down to inches.”

Groups like Southern Oregon Climate Action NOW (SOCAN) and Rogue Climate are working to educate the public and encourage direct action both

locally and nationally on the issue of climate change. Check out SOCAN’s annual report here... tinyurl.com/lw5kq6u

GMOs-- Genetic Engineering

In S. Oregon, thousands of dollars of lucrative seed crops have already been plowed under by organic growers in order to protect their certification and market reputation from pollution by gene drift from GMO crops. Syngenta, a Swiss biotech giant, is the primary producer of GMO crops in the Rogue Valley. It is illegal for Syngenta to produce GMOs in their own country, however, it is currently legal to produce them in Jackson County.

The GMO-Free measure would ban anyone from raising genetically engineered plants in Jackson County, with exemptions for scientific

ISSUES, 12

Explaining white privilege to a broke white person

BY GINA CROSLEY-CORCORAN

Years ago, some feminist on the internet told me I was “Privileged.”

“THE F#@K!?!?” I said.

I came from the kind of Poor that people don’t want to believe still exists in this country. Have you ever spent a frigid northern Illinois winter without heat or running water? I have. At twelve years old, were you making ramen noodles in a coffee maker with water you fetched from a public bathroom? I was. Have you ever lived in a camper year round and used a random relative’s apartment as your mailing address? We did. Did you attend so many different elementary schools that you can only remember a quarter of their names? Welcome to my childhood.

So when that feminist told me I had “white privilege,” I told her that my white skin didn’t do shit to prevent me from experiencing poverty. Then, like any good, educated feminist would, she directed me to Peggy McIntosh’s 1988 now-famous piece, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.”

After one reads McIntosh’s



This was a much nicer camper setup than the one we had.

powerful essay, it’s impossible to deny that being born with white skin in America affords people certain unearned privileges in life that people of another skin color simple are not afforded. For example:

“I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.”

“When I am told about our national heritage or about “civilization,” I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.”

“If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven’t been singled out because of my race.”

“I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.”

If you read through the rest of the list, you can see how white people and people of color experience the world in two very different ways. BUT LISTEN: This is not said to make white people feel guilty about their privilege. It’s not your fault you were born with white skin and experience these privileges. BUT, whether you realize it or not, you DO benefit from it, and it IS your fault if you don’t maintain awareness of that fact.

I do understand McIntosh’s essay may rub some people the wrong way. There are several

points on the list that I felt spoke more to the author’s status as a Middle Class person than a White Person. For example: “If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area, which I can afford and in which I would want to live.”

“I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.”

“I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.”

“If I want to, I can be pretty sure of finding a publisher for this piece on white privilege.”

And there are so many more points in the essay where the word “race” could be substituted for the word “class” which would ultimately paint a very different picture. That is why I had such a hard time identifying with this essay for so long. When I first wrote about White Privilege years ago, I demanded to know why this White Woman felt that my

PRIVILEGE, 14

Editorials & Opinion

Dear Readers... GMOs are immoral and ill-advised

Like many southern Oregonians, Medford schoolteachers have been heavy on my mind. While it's unfortunate that it's come down to a strike, I believe that the Medford School District has had ample time to settle contract negotiations, especially considering that Medford teachers have been working without a contract in place for the last year. I've been hearing folks griping that the strike is not fair, that somehow teachers should make less wages (one Facebook poster suggested that \$1200 a month was somehow acceptable if you can imagine that) and that by striking, the teachers are somehow setting a bad example for their students.

I reject all of that on the grounds of common sense. Public employees should earn good wages. Union jobs help preserve an all but disappearing middle class and as someone who has spent many hours in numerous classrooms in Ashland and Medford as a parent volunteer, I've seen our teachers in action. And because I know how valuable our Medford teachers are, I will keep going out to the picket line to show my support. Thank you teachers! I hope that your contract is settled quickly and you are all back in your classrooms where I know you'd rather be. In the meantime, know that we respect you for standing up for what is right.

In other news, we are headed into our third year of publishing an independent publication committed to showcasing our valley's social justice work. What began as a modest double sided

11 x 17" tabloid we printed on a donated duplicator, *The Ashland Free Press* (THANK YOU A Street Print & Parcel), grew into the ever expanding publication you are holding in your hands. Although it's sometimes been challenging to keep it going, we aren't going anywhere and will keep publishing issues on a monthly to bi-monthly basis. We couldn't have done this without the help of our friends and supporters whose donations, subscriptions, ads and encouragement sustains us.

We operate on a shoestring budget (that shoestring is short and doesn't look like much, but oh the good it does!). One of our goals for 2014 is to get a little bit of a money cushion so that when we have months where it costs more to print RVCP than we have raised in advertising, we can still print on a timely basis. Our friends from Medford Occupy are organizing a fundraiser to help keep RVCP going. On March 1 from 2:00-6:00 PM the Talent Community Center will be full of live music, food, fun and lively discussion. There will be a silent auction with donated goods from sponsors, local businesses and friends of RVCP on display. Aside from our Indiegogo campaign in 2012 where we raised about \$600 which got us off the ground, this is the first community fundraiser for RVCP. If you've enjoyed what you've read in RVCP, this is your opportunity to help keep us in print. Lets celebrate all that we've accomplished so far.

We look forward to seeing YOU there.

Kindly, Vanessa and Jason Houk

BY CATIE FARYL

The whole system that allows private corporations to genetically modify seeds, to own them as "intellectual property" and have eliminated the requirement that their products be studied by regulatory agencies is SHOCKING, DANGEROUS and IMMORAL. I believe this overreach of GMO companies is not based on true science since patents were approved by insiders' agreement based on the idea of "substantial equivalents", not on testing or independent review. These actions can be interpreted as "playing God" and deeper study and investigation is essential. In addition to voting Yes on Measure 15-119 in May, I believe citizens might seek a "cease and desist" order, an injunction or a "moratorium" on GMO seeds - no more growing, no new patents, no more products until consumers and those monitoring the legality, morality, health, and environmental repercussions of GMOs, sprays, chemicals and questionable toxic soup involved in their "recipe" are proven safe, prudent and sound.. The precautionary principle applies - DO NO HARM!

In addition, the distinctions between medical engineering of individual human genes and what is being done to our seeds and food need to be made clear. Highly regulated medical genetics are not the same thing as the numerous safety threats presented by worldwide and substantially unregulated methods involving trans-species

genetic modifications - ie. cutting and splicing microbial, plant virus, and antibiotic resistant genes into seeds that grow foods, as well as creating pest-resistant genetics systems that people, pets and livestock are ingesting/eating. It is unfair and untrue when GMO profiteers compare GMO seeds and food to medical genetics, and use that erroneous idea to perpetuate the myths that "GMOs are safe and "no big deal". In medical applications of genetic engineering, genes are contained within a single human to solve one, often life threatening, genetic problem. The gene is typically a "normal" human gene, not genes from a foreign microbial species as is done with our food.

What Syngenta, Monsanto and the Chem/Ag industry have done is create a MONOPOLY on seeds by modifying and "owning approximately 80%* of the world's seeds. They have created a danger to the economy as well as risking the future of open pollinated, natural seeds. Their actions have placed a very real potential of limited or widespread famine on the horizon because there is a GMO universal monoculture with very limited genetic diversity. If a serious plant disease comes, then all the crops will likely be susceptible. Based on one fact alone -that huge numbers of farmers can no long save and replant their own seeds - it seems frighteningly likely that the GMO/Chemical agricultural system could collapse in a very short period of time.

If you are questioning the moral, ethical or spiritual integrity of GMOs, please join a Chamber of Commons discussion group to



brainstorm the best ways to address the issues and how to talk about and approach "what God/ Goddess/ Mother Nature/ Higher Consciousness intends". This is a delicate subject so a careful handling is in order and can be managed most thoughtfully with all those who want to explore it. Members of the spiritual, ecumenical, theological, philosophical, and psychological communities, and all those concerned, are invited to send comments to championsofthecommons@gmail.com and be included in an upcoming discussion salon on this topic.

Catie Faryl www.catiefaryl.net
Chamber of Commons, P.O. Box 33, Ashland, Oregon , *champions of the commons on Facebook*

*seed patents – a 2012 report states nearly 75% of global seed patent ownership by just 10 corporations (lead by Monsanto, Syngenta, DuPont), up from just 37% in 1995. The vegetable seed market concentration is higher, with the top 4 companies controlling over 70% of global market in 2007 and the top 8 firms controlling 94%, again led by the 3 above.

Source: A profile of corporate power in seeds, agrochemicals and Biotech, Hope Shand, 2012.

Your Social Justice News Resource

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is your local resource for social justice news. We don't pretend to hide our biases: RVCP is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Published monthly, it is available through subscription, and local retail locations.

The opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editorial staff or advertisers.

Is your voice missing in RVCP? What's on your mind? We're listening! Send us your story ideas, articles, letters to the editor, guest opinions, poetry or artwork for publication. We welcome unsolicited submissions. We especially welcome articles covering local topics and events. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. If there are topics you would like to see covered, you can send ideas and feedback to the same address.

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Contact

Rogue Valley Community Press
258 A Street #1
Ashland, Oregon 97520
(541) 622-9483
editor@rvcommunitypress.com
advertising@rvcommunitypress.com

Staff

Jason Houk
Publisher

Vanessa Houk
Editor-in-Chief

FIND US AT RVCOMMUNITYPRESS.COM AND ON FACEBOOK

Not a desert yet...

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi folks!
Thanks for a great paper. I am happy to report that the situation in Grants Pass is not as dire as you reported in this article (*November 2013 RVCP*) , if it can even be said to be dire at all. You said "All of the major grocery stores are located in one single geographic area, the Parkway. With the closing of Ray's on Seventh Street and Williams Hwy. there will be no grocery store that is even remotely convenient in the Northwest part of town."

There are many other large grocers besides the Parkway ones. Downtown, there is a Safeway and Sunshine, a large health food store. In the southwest, by the Williams Hwy.

Rays closure, there remains another Safeway, a large health food/produce/mixed goods store called Farmer's Market, and a large butcher/produce market. On the far west side there is an Albertson's and another large Health food store, Gooseberries.

Actually, for the far North part, you are correct, but we do have a Dollar Tree with a good grocery section, and the downtown Safeway is a short, straight shot on the bus.

Not a desert yet!

Peace,

Cathy Seitz
Grants Pass Oregon

Life

The community of coffee

BY AARON LUNDSTROM

This was the first time I'd been ousted from a coffee shop, and the eviction was potent enough to make me wonder what community and hospitality really mean within Ashland's coffee-shop culture -- and whether or not I was just a big jerk.

As I sat outside Noble Coffee Roasting on Fourth Street in Ashland's Railroad District, four empty tables stood next to me in a 40-something-degree November afternoon. I ate my home-cooked Tupperware lunch and drank non-Noble coffee from a personal cup while alone at a fifth outdoor table, watching passersby and savoring my precious 30-minute lunch break. After about 10 minutes it happened. A Barista. Came. Outside.

"Can I get you something?" he said sincerely but with a high-pitched suspicion.

"No, thanks. I already have something," I said cheerfully, raising my coffee cup as evidence that I did indeed already have something. But I knew where this was going.

"Alright, well, I'm sorry, but we'll have to ask you to move somewhere else. My boss sent me out here and said that unless you buy something..."

"Okay, that's fine. I'll move." I rose and began putting my Tupperware into my messenger bag. "I just saw all the empty chairs and figured this was a hospitable place," I said, with less cheer than before as I turned toward the alley that would quickly take me elsewhere.

But I understood the rejection. Admittedly, when I first sat myself down I felt the slight discomfort I get whenever I sense that even just one person might disapprove of what I'm doing. As a "social dyslexic," I actually get this feeling often, which has habituated me to these kinds of mishaps. Still, I left Noble that afternoon with more self-justification than shame. I thought to myself in my back-alley recollection: But there wasn't even anyone else outside. There were four empty tables and nine vacant chairs, so it's not like I deprived someone of a seat. And I was just sitting there, not bothering anyone, eating my rice and beans and drinking my this-isn't-hot-anymore-but-it's-still-coffee coffee. Plus not long ago I was a paying customer, buying Noble coffee at this very coffeehouse for my new-to-town friend, my wife



and me. So what's the big deal?

I had to know for two reasons: 1) I wanted to be right, and 2) If I really was out of line, I wanted to know so that I wouldn't flub in this way again. I mean, I don't want to be on bad terms with anyone, but especially not with the local coffee shops.

So I called around. Turns out that while some coffee shops share Noble's "no money, no seat" policy, others don't. For example, employees from Evo's Coffee Lounge, Rogue Valley Coffee Roasters and the Starbucks on Siskiyou all told me, essentially, after I asked them if I could sit at one of their tables even if I didn't buy anything: "Oh, sure, whatever. Come and sit. People do it all the time."

Jared Rennie, the founder of Noble Coffee Roasting, says that this welcoming approach is actually the exception more than the rule, and abiding by it would threaten Noble's ability to strike a balance between hospitality, quality and sustainability. More specifically, such an approach would deprive Noble of the revenue needed to provide good working conditions for local and overseas workers, as well as to better care for the environment via sustainable business practices. "We simply ask that those who use our services help us to meet our goal of sustainability -- environmental and social as well as financial," says Rennie.

That makes sense. In short, nobility costs money. At the same time, though, why is it that other coffee shops don't find it a burden to occasionally welcome guests who, for whatever reason, don't purchase anything on a given day? Are these shops less noble than Noble in terms of social, environmental and financial sustainability? Or are coffee shops like Noble Coffee Roasting becoming the community coffee-house version of a sad archetype -- namely, that workaholic parent who slaves at a job in the name of Providing

Financially For My Family or Changing The World, while neglecting the kindnesses and reasonableness which contribute to a loving atmosphere at home?

Whatever the case, you yourself can take positive action in order to avoid "social dyslexia" and to help maintain good relations at whatever coffee shop you visit, in the event that you want to recline without reciprocation:

1) *Ask for permission to sit without buying anything.* If denied permission at one place, just leave peacefully and consider another coffee shop or business nearby.

2) *Don't make a habit of lounging without purchasing at a given place, unless you've received permission.* Show respect to the business's need for revenue by contributing to the cause when able.

By taking this considerate approach you'll likely often meet consideration in kind. Sometimes, though, you'll also encounter an opposite attitude that will drive you away. But don't worry about it. Just move on.

And if you happen to own or work at a coffee shop that enforces austere adherence to The Rules, consider what your stern mindset could do to your business in the long run. While the "Them's the rules, son. Now git!" mentality is perhaps understandable in terms of the strict economics of operating a business, it's less understandable in terms of building a community. No one's saying don't run your business. At the same time, though, be prudent, and don't risk ruining your business's reputation by acting in step with a philosophy that's maybe monetarily wise and even socially or environmentally noble, but, in the light of hospitality shown to the broader community, emotionally unintelligent.

Nobility, after all, involves more than the roasted, counted bean.

Bearing witness

BY VANESSA HOUK

My uncle lost his battle with pancreatic cancer and late diagnosed bladder cancer last month. His death came on the heels of another important male figure in my life, Jason's beloved Grandpa, whose death followed my father's. Suddenly, between both sides of our family, we are awfully short of patriarchs.

It turns out that within a somewhat dysfunctional family that in an odd sense, this is somehow freeing even as it is powerfully depressing.

All of sudden, secrets that were kept for decades have been let go. Some of these secrets are not mine, but in their telling they brought me back to a place that I thought I left behind and to a time when I faced off some of my own biggest fears.

Before I go there though, I have to acknowledge that I am not alone. About one in six American women will be a victim of sexual assault or abuse in her lifetime. I was eight years old when I took my place in line with that particular statistic. My abuser was a friend of the family, so close that he was like a second father who was always around on weekends and holidays. Statistically speaking about 2/3 of all victims of sexual assault know their offender. I was not his only victim.

Secrets can be whispered or they can be howled. As a teenager I didn't have the words to spill my secrets, but I called out for help at least twice that I can remember. When I was in middle school, I ran away from home and was missing for a day and a year or so later I wrote a suicide note and left it for my parents to find. Both cries for help were unanswered. I didn't think anyone would believe me anyway.

Back then, I thought that opening up that Pandora's box would somehow crush me. I

thought that what happened to me somehow defined who I was and all that I would become.

Fast forward to my college years and a breakdown which guided me into years of individual and group counseling. Group counseling for childhood sexual abuse is a crash course in compassion. It was there where I heard stories that still haunt me, tales of other little girls who ripped the eyes off cherished teddy bears to protect them from seeing what they were living through.

By this time I had gathered enough support that I went back home and started talking about all I had been hiding. Together with my family, I confronted my abuser and made sure that everyone around him knew what he was capable of doing. Then I walked away and began a long, slow process of healing. Over the years I would be reminded again and again that the men around me could be just as powerfully kind and good, as were my three lost patriarchs, a fair balance.

Counseling gave me the tools required to pick myself up and brush myself off. I discovered that I held everything I needed in order to end the abuse I once hid from and that what happened to me was not my fault. It was not a mark on my character, but that of my abusers.

And the most powerful part of the story is that the abuse ends with me. The alcoholism that infested my childhood ends with me. Talking about it cements that truth, as one-by-one secrets are emancipated and new chapters begin.

Vanessa Houk is a mother, activist and the editor of the Rogue Valley Community Press. She can be reached at editor@rvcommunitypress.com

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Applause & Hiss



A Pittsburgh based doctor has been giving free health care to homeless people for the last twenty two years! Talk about a pioneer of street medicine, this doctors kindness can inspire us all. Five nights a week, Doctor Jim Withers has walked the streets and searched under bridges and in alleyways to tend to some of Pennsylvania’s most underserved residents. “Everybody matters,” he says. “We have to look out for the most ostracized in our communities.”



Major HISS to the new garbage cans that have been distributed to residents in Ashland. What’s not to like? Well for the first thing they are small. Now our family is used to our Rubbermaid Brute 44 Gallon and this new pipsqueek barely holds 32 gallons. Furthermore, it has a square hole for my round bag. And to top it all off, not only is it odd shaped and prone to tip, there is no lock to keep it closed. The neighborhood raccoons ar smarter than this technology.



With the recent conversations about a possible ban on pitbulls in Medford, we were touched to hear of a pit bull named Dominic whose gentle spirit speaks louder than words. It seems that Dominic’s owner works for a Colorado based veterinarian office and she got into the habit of taking her dog to work. Almost immediately the vet staff noticed that the pit bull curled up with dogs who were post surgery and when those animals began to regain consciousness, Dominic rested his head on them when they cried, offering friendly comfort. As reported by Mother Nature Network, the clinic staff were stunned. “I was actually walking through our veterinary clinic and stopped dead in my tracks as I watched Dominic literally walk over to two of our post-surgery patients as one was beginning to wake up and sort of struggle,” said Denkai Animal Sanctuary President Floss Blackburn. “He calmly laid down between the

two of them and put his head on that dog’s shoulder. The dog immediately relaxed.” Now the pit bull puppy has a part time job. “Animals are incredible and so sensitive,” Blackburn said. “If people would watch more and observe, I think that they would see these things in their animals.”



Driven by stricter European emission standards, worldwide production of electric vehicles is forecast to rise by 67 percent this year, according to IHS Automotive, a business information analyst. Total production of pure electric models and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles is projected to increase to more than 403,000 this year. The growth projected for 2014 follows the 44 percent increase in 2013. The Europe, Middle East and Africa region will account for the largest share of production at more than 40 percent, with the Americas and Asia-Pacific each making up about 30 percent.



According to a study published by the European Union Fish Processors and Traders Association, there has been a sharp decline in the total world fish supply. Among the conclusions, the total supply of fish in 2012 reached the lowest level since the formation of the European Union. According to the study published in December, the supply of all species of fish have decreased 3 percent. According to the report, catches rarely reach the full potential of their quota. The study warns that competition for fish and seafood is now on a global scale and represents one of the largest sectors of all in international trade. The need to conduct this trade responsibly has never been greater



Nine years ago, Dennis Aabo Sørensen lost his left arm in a fireworks accident. Now, a bionic hand has restored his ability to feel, the first time this has been reported in a scientific journal.

“I could feel things that I hadn’t been able to feel in over nine years,” Sørensen, who lives in Denmark, said in a statement. Researchers embedded electrodes in Sørensen’s arm, and touch sensors in a prosthetic hand to stimulate his remaining nerves. With the hand, Sørensen was able to recognize different objects by their feel, and grasp them appropriately, according to the study detailed in the journal Science Translational Medicine.



In a crass yet frank admission, Bayer CEO Marijn Dekkers said his company’s new cancer drug, Nexavar, is not “for Indians.” The statement came in the wake in a recent ruling by an Indian court that certain life-saving drugs could be produced and distributed at 97% of the brand-name price. Mr Deekers, who has previously described India’s patent laws as ‘essentially theft’, said: ‘We did not develop this medicine for Indians. We developed it for western patients who can afford it.’



Help stop an online art heist!
An online store based in Ohio, “Look Human Clothing” stocks a number of products produced with stolen writing and artwork and other than deleting comments from their Facebook wall, they have been silent on the issue. It seems that a number of artists whose work has been shared on the website Tumblr have become victims of theft and the artists are neither credited for their work, nor given any of the profits from sales of said merchandise. It’s a reprehensible and illegal practice. We’re calling on artists, musicians and our activist minded friends to take a few minutes and let this company know that it’s wrong to profit from someone else’s intellectual property . Email: help@lookhuman.com www.facebook.com/lookhumandotcom?filter=2 twitter.com/look_human

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: What’s In It For Me?

BY MARK KELLENBECK

Since October of last year, Main Street businesses and the communities we work and live in have been inundated with news coverage, advertising, and political plays centered around the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It has become such a central piece of the daily news grind in the past few months that most of us have forgotten that the implementation of the ACA began in 2010.

So what has the ACA done for us lately? In the first two years of implementation, several reforms to the insurance industry were rolled out. We’ve seen the end of lifetime limits, prescription drug discounts for seniors, and young people can now stay on their parent’s plan until age 26. In 2010 we also saw the end of the disturbing practice of denying coverage to children who had preexisting conditions. In 2014 we have seen this courtesy extend to everyone.

The ACA can also boast stronger consumer protections with rate review and the 80/20 rule. With rate review, insurance companies must now publicly justify any rate increase of 10% or more before raising your premium. The 80/20 rule requires insurance companies to spend at least 80% of the money they take in on premiums on health care and quality improvements instead of administrative costs and marketing. If an insurance company doesn’t meet these requirements, their customers will get a rebate.

Small businesses have also seen substantial benefits from the passage of the ACA with the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit. Since 2010, Small business owners who have 25 or fewer employees that make \$50,000 or less, and pay at least 50% of their full-time employee’ premiums have qualified for tax credit up to 35% of cost of coverage for their employees.

Folks who have already applied for the Small Business Health Insurance Tax Credit have seen it pay off in their bottom line. Neighborhood business owners from Portland to Talent who have covered premium costs for their employees

have seen their costs drop to what they were five or more years ago. The tax credits have allowed Oregon small businesses to continue offering coverage to their employees and grow their businesses.

The Main Street Alliance of Oregon knows health care decisions for our families and our business are difficult. That is why we are traveling around the state to provide community forums to help bring clarity to our communities about the ACA and to give small business owners and community members the knowledge and tools to make decisions about coverage for ourselves--without the politically charged rhetoric.

But despite all these benefits, the rollout of the affordable care act hasn’t been without it’s stumbles, and many individuals and small business owners understandably have very practical questions. That’s why the Main Street Alliance of Oregon is coming to the Rogue Valley to hold a community forum at the Rogue Valley Universalist Unitarian Fellowship in Ashland on March 5th at 6:00pm. We hope you will join us and get the answers you need to make the best choice for your family and business. We know that even with all of the new consumer protections, subsidies, and tax credits from the ACA, that we still have work to do to truly make health care affordable and accessible to all. However, we hope you will join the Main Street Alliance of Oregon to learn about some of the big steps forward we have taken with the Affordable Care Act.

Mark Kellenbeck is the owner of BrainJoy, LLC in Medford and is the Co-Chair of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a statewide network of nearly 2000 local, independent small businesses dedicated to providing small businesses a voice on the most pressing public policy issues in Oregon and nationally.



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Analysis

Senator Merkley’s town hall report Vets for Peace action

BY JASON HOUK

I attended Senator Jeff Merkley’s town hall in Medford on Sunday, January 5th. This was his 187th town hall. Several hundred people packed the meeting room in the old public library building. It was a diverse crowd of young and old with many local elected officials and media present. After the pledge, a brief introduction and awards, Merkley made a statement on his legislative goals for 2014. Most related to the economy such as fighting for emergency unemployment insurance extensions, funding job creation to make energy saving retrofits to existing structures and investing in rural energy saving programs. Merkley called on increasing our national investment in infrastructure, lamenting our current meager 2 percent investment of GDP. He also gave a strong argument for reinvesting in our High School shop classes.

Merkley and crew kept a tight one-hour meeting. The audience members invited to ask questions were chosen through lottery... folks were given about three minutes each to ask their questions.

By far the largest single coalition were the Rogue Climate and SO. Climate Action Network. Also folks from Move to Amend were wearing their yellow shirt and plenty of the usual “liberal” crowd, democratic candidates and party folks. Also a good number of conservatives though not in a group or mobilized.

The first question was about our relationship with Saudi Arabia and why we should sever it. Merkley dodged that one as he is not on any committees dealing with this and felt he didn’t have enough information to comment.

The next question was about fracking. Merkley concedes it is responsible for a “huge increase

in natural gas production” but that “right now its being done irresponsibly.” He talked about contaminated wells and groundwater. Merkley called to “close the exemption to the clean water act” to much applause from the audience.

There was a question asked about stopping the collaboration between local police and INS which Merkley explained is an issue that can only be addressed at the state and local level. “...it isn’t a federal framework.” Merkley was applauded for his support of the immigration reform bill.

Another question about climate change, when asked how many in the room were concerned about climate change 3/4th of the hands went up. Merkley gave dire warning about global warming, the significance of “350” and “400”. “the effects are here now. It is a huge challenge... Different parts of the world will experience this in different ways.” Merkley did state unequivocally that a Carbon Tax and Cap and Trade were off the table, they “are not going to happen,” much to the disappointment of the audience.

On money in politics, Merkley regrets the “corrosive sums of money” that are pumped into campaigns through Citizens United and Koch brothers. Merkley calls for “instant transparency” in campaign donations and to “close the loophole” that allows social service groups and nonprofits to divert much of their income to political causes. “We should change that regulation.”

Merkley also made a pledge to work with Ron Wyden on issues such as forest restoration. “I am deeply engaged with Wyden.” There was also an adorable question from a 3rd grader who asked “have you ever been inside the place that makes the money?”



Merkley meets with attendants after his January Town Hall meeting in Medford. Photo by Jason Houk

Merkley also condemned the NSA and Patriot Act, “citizens don’t even know what the law is.”

Other than a call for “striking down non-tariff barriers”, there was no further questions or comments about free trade and the trade bills negotiated in private that threaten our environment, labor protections and community sovereignty. Unfortunately my number was not called or I would have asked a question about his “Level the Playing Field in Global Trade Act” and how this will impact TPP and existing multinational trade bills.

There were no questions asked about health care and his support of the ACA. Merkley did end with a statement on the “tremendous things that have happened” and then read off a laundry list..\$20K in rebates, 30K Oregonians saving money, young adults allowed to stay on parents insurance, increase in free preventative care, 1.3 million with no lifetime limits, 1.6 million with pre-existing conditions now can find health care... Merkley also admitted the Oregon website failed... “Oracle sucks!” but pointed out that Oregon stepped up by hiring folks to sign folk up the old fashion ways. Merkley called on folks to look forward, stating “we cannot go back.”

protests treatment of Gitmo prisoners

Rogue Valley local Veterans For Peace staged a protest of the Guantánamo prison and the way indefinite detainees are treated there. The “street theater” in solidarity with an international day of protest on the the 10th anniversary of detainees in the “war on terror” being incarcerated at Guantánamo. To awaken the conscience of others, VPF 156 members, associates and friends presented themselves in orange prison garb, black hooded, protesting the deaths of eight detainees, who have died waiting for justice, several under highly suspect circumstances.



You can watch a video of this demonstration at : <http://alturl.com/n5fzg>



TECHNOLOGY BEAT

3D-printer prints your dinner

BY COLIN DAILED A FOR MASHABLE

With Foodini, preparing a handmade meal doesn’t take nearly as long as it used to. “Foodini’s main purpose is to take on the difficult and/ or time-consuming parts of food preparation that often discourage people from creating homemade food, whether it’s in a home kitchen or a restaurant,” Lynette Kucsma, a Foodini cofounder, told Mashable in an email.

Foodini is a 3D printer that can do things such as build already-rolled pasta dough. The

device lets you choose from a number of recipes or build your own. To make ravioli, for example, prepare the dough and the filling, load them into the machine’s food “capsules” and select “ravioli” on the printer’s iPad-like interface. Foodini will then print the ingredients in the shape of fully-formed ravioli, and the only thing left to do is cook them. If your dish requires no cooking, then it’s ready to eat as soon as Foodini is finished.

Foodini, which was developed by startup Natural Machines, will cost around \$1,300, but won’t be a behemoth in your

kitchen. It’s built to look like a sleek microwave and is about the same size. The 3D printer will also be ready to prepare food as soon you take it out of the box, no assembly required

Foodini can build anything from a quiche to chocolate in the shape of a snowman, which means it not only assembles complicated dishes faster than you could yourself, but also helps holiday party hosts design clever edible creations.

Natural Machines expects to ship the first wave of its 3D printers in mid-2014.

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Opinions The Tidings Will Not Print

Anti-Semitism in Liberal Land?

BY LEAH EV IRELAND

Our local RVTv is a TV station dedicated to free speech which serves the area well. There is an especially “free speech” late night slot reserved for home made documentaries that are edgy and radical. That is a great service to the community and free thinking.

As a civil rights activist, however, I’ve been given the “bums rush” by both RVTv and the Tidings with my concerns that one show is anti-Semitic. If so, it breaks the very tenets of RVTv itself and keeps residents uninformed. Again, this paper alone endeavors to print what is important to make public.

The series of shows on late night RVTv claim that Zionists are taking over the world. It goes on to infer that anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism. It is true that American Jews are less and less happy with Israeli politics and actions. But this tired old world needs new solutions and not old enemies.

All conservative religions are trying to take over the world. What’s new? The Christians have been trying for two thousand years. Where is the expose on that? Where is the militant anti-Muslim show? To politically incorrect? Why is it okay for the less aware to pick on the Jews via Zionism and be okay?

Many Jews and gentiles disagree on what Israel is doing to the Palestinians as well as what the Palestine’s are doing to the Israelis. Many gentiles swear, “Never Again!”and mean it no matter what. The ugly specter of anti-Semitism snakes out of its basket again.

Even here in Perfect Arty Liberal Land some locals think that the Zionists were responsible for the destruction of the Twin Towers and WW II. For shame. Zionism is

more about ultra conservative nationalism. It is true. If you think you are anti-Zionist but not anti-Semitic and that you know the difference, please ask at your local temple.

Zionism no more represents ruling the world than the Conservative Christian Tea Party represents Americans, or Terrorists represent Muslims. Why do we keep ignoring the hideous need to blame some “others?”

Are Jewish people the target of universal resentment because of their excellence? They have thrived wherever they have been. They are the foremost supporters of philanthropy and civil liberties per capita in the world too. Jews require no defense.

Many Israelis disagree with their conservative governments treatment of Palestinians as many American’s disagreed with Reagan and Bush. It’s called freedom of opinion, even when dangerous and ill-informed.

Mankind still requires an enemy during its own self-destruction. Such arrogance answers the question of the century: “How could the Holocaust happen?!” It happens when the world is failing and we do not assume the responsibility. It can happen when the mere subject of anti-Semitism is too “hot” to air in public, though accusations are politically correct free speech.

If this can happen in Liberal Land, imagine how it spreads in poverty, ignorance, and where there is no hope. We are all “the enemy.” And it all begins in a town that will not pay for its own library, to keep self-education thriving and free and keep free speech open and going both ways, like Ashland.

Leah Ev Ireland lives in Ashland.

Local organizer receives Trade Justice Award

VIA PRESS RELEASE

The Oregon Fair Trade Campaign (ORFTC) has awarded the 2013 Daniel Bonham Trade Justice Award to SOJwJ Organizer, Wes Brain.

Wes has been a leader for trade justice with the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign and the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment (ASJE) in Oregon, which was founded in 1999 and was the precursor to ORFTC. Wes was one of the first elected board of directors, representing the labor caucus. The Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment brought together rank-and-file laborers and environmental activists in a strategic alliance that worked to challenge economic policies that destroy good jobs and a healthy environment. As ORFTC does today, ASJE worked to build a world where nature is protected, the worker is respected, and unrestrained corporate power is rejected though grassroots organizing, education, and action. Wes has been at the forefront of the trade justice battle, sharing his talent for bringing together unlikely allies for the mutual and far-reaching benefits of our coalition. He has been the lead organizer on multiple trade justice demonstrations, educational events and lobby visits. He has housed, fed and trained ORFTC organizers, fundraised for the coalition, and helped shape its direction.

Wes’s contributions to the progressive movement are vast. He has been one of the driving forces of Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice (SOJwJ), and is a retired member-activist with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 503, two of ORFTC’s strongest coalition partners. Before that he was a firefighter for sixteen years in Jackson County. Wes believes strongly that healthcare is a human right and sits on the board of Health Care for ALL Oregon. Wes also hosts the Brain Labor Report, an hour-long radio show every Wednesday at 9 a.m. on KSKQ, the Rogue Valley’s community radio station, www.kskq.org. Wes knows the definition of solidarity and continues to reached out to SEIU, KSKQ, SOJwJ and elsewhere to educate and agitate for trade justice. This is our second annual volunteer award given in loving memory of Daniel F. Bonham, ORFTC’s former Secretary-Treasurer, who dedicated his life to working to create a more just society.

In remembering Daniel’s amazing contributions Arthur Stamoulis, CTC Director said, “Where I grew up, the highest compliment you could give a person is that they are a hard worker. Daniel was an incredibly

AWARD, 9

Right to work laws vie for Oregon ballot

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”
~ Martin Luther King, speaking about right-to-work laws in 1961

BY JASON HOUK

A ballot initiative that threatens the ability of workers to collectively bargain is gathering support. The Public Employee Choice Act would ban unions and employers from entering into union-security agreements. If passed, this initiative would make Oregon the nation’s 25th so-called “right-to-work” state.

The initiative is currently being challenged on issues of language used in the title and summary. The legislation will reach the voters as Initiative Petition #9 (IP9). Once released, proponents will have until July 2014 to gather the required 87,000 signatures. If these signatures are verified, it will appear on Oregon’s November 4th, 2014 ballot.

The initiative is being promoted by The Cascade Policy Institute, a conservative think tank with ties to the corporate-funded American Legislative Exchange Council.

“There’s national money to be had, and there are large donors in the state that definitely want to move forward,” said Jill Gibson Odell, the Portland attorney who is sponsoring the initiative. Conservative businessman Loren Parks has already donated \$6,000 to the cause.

Right to work laws affect the collective bargaining process. Through collective bargaining, employers and unions meet to negotiate a contract covering the terms and conditions of employment. Things like wages, work hours, conditions, benefits and other issues. As part of the contract, many employers and unions agree to a “Union Security” clause which allows unions to share their costs with members through union dues. Right to work laws prohibit

employers and employees from negotiating that security clause.

As a result, right to work laws allow workers to pay nothing and still receive the benefits of a negotiated contract. Such laws force unions to allocate resources and time in an unsustainable manner. The ultimate impact is a weakening of unions ability to bargain and affects the wages and working conditions of both union and non-union workers.

“So-called right-to-work laws have nothing to do with anyone being forced to be a member of a union or to support political causes he or she disagrees with,” explains Gordon Lafer, an associate professor with Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon. “It is already the law that no one in Oregon can be forced to be a member of a union or be forced to contribute even a single cent to politicians or political causes he or she opposes.”

“Right-to-work laws tell people that they can get all the benefits and services of a union contract, but that paying their share of the costs that make that contract possible is optional,” explains Lafer. “In this situation, many people choose not to pay dues, not because they’re anti-union but because times are tight.”

Studies show that workers who belong to unions receive better wages, benefits and working conditions than non-union workers and right to work laws undermine these gains. According to data compiled by the NEA and University of Maine, right to work states have higher rates of poverty and lower standards of living that worker-friendly states. Median annual pay is 14 percent higher in free bargaining states and the rate of workplace deaths is more than half that of right to work states.

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US President Barack Obama signs a multi-year farm bill into law which cuts the food stamp program by about \$9 billion over the next ten years. The law would cut by about \$900 million a year the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), on which almost 47 million Americans rely to afford food.

Photo by PressTV.ir

Local officers vie to unseat Winters in sheriff’s race

BY VANESSA HOUK

The ballots won’t go out until May, but in the meantime voters can decide who they want as the Jackson County Sheriff. Voters will have several sheriff candidates to choose from in the May Primary this year. Two candidates, Bob Sergi and Corey Falls are challenging Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters as he seeks a fourth term in the November election.

The May election is increasingly important as if any one of the three candidates gets 50% of the vote, plus one vote, that candidate would run unopposed on the November ballot. Otherwise the top two candidates with the most votes will run against one another in the November Primary election.

Bob Sergi is a Jackson County Sheriff’s Lieutenant, a night supervisor at the county jail and he thinks that the Jackson County Sheriff’s office needs new leadership. He feels that “the sheriff’s office has a tremendous number of talented and professional employees who are not being utilized to the best of their experience and expertise.”

“I have an invested interest in the future of the county”, explains Corey Falls, a Deputy Chief of Police in Ashland and a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Falls grew up in the Applegate valley and attended Medford schools. He says he focus on different priorities rather than what the current sheriff is focusing on and explained that he has experience with problem solving policing.

Sergi moved to the Rogue Valley from Long Beach, California in the late 1980’s, worked in Jackson County

Sheriff’s office for a year and then for Medford Police Department for two decades before going back to the sheriff’s office to take on the role of Jail Commander. He told a Mail Tribune reporter that he was “critical of the video surveillance equipment installed in Shady Cove schools and the high-tech gear for the helicopter.”

“I think that we need to go in a different direction and focus more on law enforcement,” he said.

Falls says, “I think it’s time for Jackson County to have a sheriff who is more responsive to the public.” He has a collaborative leadership style and thinks that it is important for the sheriff to be out in the community, talking and listening to the community. He also thinks it is crucial for the sheriff to have a better relationship with social service agencies. “For example, what are the best resources for a mental health crisis,” he said. “Jail can be the default. The sheriff can be a lead role in that.”

In previous elections, Winters has run unopposed.

Learn more about both candidates at: sergiforsheriff.wordpress.com/ coreyfalls4sheriff.com/

RVCP will be covering the sheriff’s race heavily between now and May. Watch for exclusive one-on-one interviews with all three candidates. Are there questions you’d like us to ask? Drop us a line at editor@rvcommunitypress.com.

Register to vote online at <http://www.co.jackson.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=2695>

Oregon 15-cent minimum wage increase still not enough to make ends meet

BY OREGON CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

As calls for a higher minimum wage grow louder around the country, Oregon’s wage floor is quietly set to rise by 15 cents at the start of the new year. The increase will add \$312 to the yearly income of a full-time minimum wage worker.

“While the uptick in Oregon’s minimum wage is welcome, it still leaves too many working families unable to meet basic needs,” said Jason Gettel, policy analyst with the Oregon Center for Public Policy. “An even higher wage floor would be good for workers and our state.”

The increase set to take effect on January 1 will put Oregon’s minimum wage at \$9.10 per hour. The change is the result of a ballot measure, enacted by voters in 2002, requiring that the state’s minimum wage keep up with the cost of living.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy estimated that it would take at least a minimum wage of about \$9.55 to lift a family of three with one parent working full-time out of poverty in 2014. This figure is based on the Center’s projection of how much the federal poverty guidelines are likely to increase next year.

“Despite the federal poverty level being a very low bar, the minimum wage is still sometimes not enough to lift a family above that level,” said Gettel. “The official definition of poverty really measures serious economic privation, not basic needs.”

To achieve a secure, yet modest, living standard, families in Oregon need income that is at least two-and-a-half times the federal poverty level, according to analysis by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. That would mean a wage of about \$24 per hour for a single parent with two children.

Over the past year, fast food workers in cities across the country have held one-day strikes in an effort to pressure the industry to raise wages to at least \$15 an hour. These strikes have boosted efforts to raise the minimum wage.

A \$15 minimum wage may soon become a reality for some workers in SeaTac, Washington. In November voters in the city approved a ballot measure raising the minimum wage for hospitality and transportation workers to \$15 an hour. Opponents, however, have sued to strike down the law.

In nearby Seattle, the incoming mayor has convened

a task force to study raising the city’s minimum wage up to \$15 an hour.

Without specifying a figure, Washington Governor Jay Inslee has called for a discussion on raising the state’s minimum wage -- already the nation’s highest among all states. It is set to increase to \$9.32 an hour in 2014.

Just last week, the city council of Washington, D.C. unanimously approved an increase in the city’s minimum wage to \$11.50, starting in 2016. After that, minimum wage workers will receive yearly cost of living increases.

The minimum wage is also going up in California. Earlier in the year lawmakers enacted a bill raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour by 2016, getting there in two steps.

Oregon’s minimum wage isn’t likely to surpass the \$10-mark until at least 2018, Gettel noted. “Unless inflation rises more rapidly than expected, it will be about five years before we hit \$10 per hour.”

“In 2002, Oregon voters rightly bumped up the state’s minimum wage and made sure that it wasn’t eroded by inflation,” said

WAGES, 13

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is in an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

Frederick Douglass - 1886



“Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.”

H.G. Wells - 1920

Check Winter Meeting times online at: www.occupymedfordoregon.org email: occupymedford@gmail.com

Occupy Medford is a local non-partisan movement in solidarity with democratic movements around the world.

99% STRONG!

GI Coffeehouse West Coast Tour

VIA PRESS RELEASE

Rogue Valley Veterans For Peace chapter 156 is locally sponsoring the GI Coffeehouse Tour on Tuesday, February 25th from 6pm to 9 pm at the Grass Shack Hawaiian Cafe, 205 Fern Valley Rd, Phoenix.

The purpose of the tour is to support the rights of servicemembers, veterans and military families while challenging war and militarism. The tour is to remind people about the importance of ongoing GI outreach efforts and to raise much needed funds for the three GI cafes/outreach centers.

GI Coffeehouses provide service members, veterans and their families' safe places for healing, to exchange unfiltered information, and to speak about our concerns and experiences

The tour will feature the work of Under The Hood GI Cafe in Killeen, Texas (Fort Hood),

Coffee Strong in Lakewood, Washington (Joint Base Lewis-McChord), and The Clearing Barrel GI Bar and Coffeehouse in Kaiserslautern, Germany, center for U.S. military installations in Europe with the Ramstein Airbase and Landstuhl Medical Center.

The tour will feature speakers from all three GI Coffeehouses and participants will have the opportunity to learn first hand about their successes and challenges. There will be videos, slide shows, and discussions about the future of these important centers of information and resistance. Representatives will speak about the impact their facilities are making in their areas. In addition singer/songwriters Pete Herzog and Patrick Tovatt and poet T. Poe Varnado will also perform before and after the tour.



Street art by Banksy

For more information visit www.gicoffeehousetour.org or Rogue Valley VFP156 at www.rv-vfp156.org

No austerity for military budget

BY SARAH LAZARE
FOR COMMON DREAMS

In an era of bipartisan agreement on austerity cuts to vital services and workers' benefits, military-industrial-complex spending will continue into the new year untouched. President Barack Obama signed into law on Thursday the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2014 that allots \$526.8 billion for the Pentagon's budget and \$80 billion for the war in Afghanistan—totaling nearly \$607 billion in defense-related spending. This is nearly \$30 billion more than was agreed to in the bipartisan federal budget deal that was also signed by Obama on Thursday.

“The passage of a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that calls for \$30 billion more for the Pentagon and allied agencies than is contained in the recent budget deal passed by both houses of Congress is just the latest indication that defense hawks continue to live in their own world, untroubled by fiscal constraints,” said William Hartung, director of the Arms & Security Project at the Center for International Policy.

The bill does include an ease of restrictions on transferring Guantanamo Bay U.S. military prison inmates to the custody of other countries, while banning transfers to the United States, in what human rights advocates are calling a limited victory.

“We hope that President Obama will make swift use

of the new NDAA provisions to actually act on his removal of the ban,” reads an official statement from the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has battled unlawful detentions at Guantánamo for the past 11 years.

“Despite President Obama’s announcement in May that he would lift his self-imposed ban on transfers to Yemen, seven months later not a single Yemeni has been released,” the statement warns.

The bill also introduces limited protections for survivors of sexual assault within the U.S. military, yet keeps power over legal cases within the chain of command—which survivors and their advocates say is inadequate in a system where higher ranking service members have near impunity for sexual assaults perpetrated down the chain of command. Critics slammed the NDAA as a military handout at a time of great human need.

“The bill is a massive spending program on the war economy with no justification in a time of austerity and limited security threats,” writes D.S. Wright for FiredogLake.

“Washington’s spending priorities are upside down: continuing to fund the Afghan war and the taxpayer ripoff F-35 warplane while cutting funding for human needs,” said Robert Naiman, policy director for Just Foreign Policy, in an interview with Common Dreams.

New resources offered for Ashland homeless

VIA PRESS RELEASE

There is good news to report about the work to assist the neediest of Ashland’s residents.

The City of Ashland awarded to Options for Homeless Residents of Ashland (OHRA) and ACCESS a two-year, \$100,000 grant to provide day services for the city’s homeless.

The main purpose is to open a day center, in addition, a generous private donation has made it possible to purchase a mobile facility with showers and washing machines and dryers.

The day center, called the Ashland Community Resource Center will provide a range of assistance to homeless and low income community members including case management,

service referrals, restrooms, backpack storage, mailing address, Internet access, a phone, job search-related printing, hygiene supplies, bus passes and education opportunities. These will be available to at-risk individuals and families as well as the homeless.

The new Ashland Community Resource Center is at 570B Clover Lane, near the Ashland Food Bank on the east side of I-5.

The Center will be open Tuesday through Saturday between 9 and 1 p.m. The shower trailer will be open three days a week at three different locations.

Volunteers are needed for both

the mobile shower unit and the Ashland Community Resource Center. Contact Regina Ayars at 541-482-5019 or reginariley@jeffnet.org if you are interested in volunteering for either of these new and exciting community volunteer opportunities.

Do You have a story to tell about struggling to make it on poverty wages, bad working conditions, lack of paid sick days or affordable healthcare?

Let us know.

Send your stories to: editor@rvcommunitypress.com

or call our hotline: 541-622-9483

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom



Founded in 1915, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is one of the world’s oldest peace organizations. From World War I through the 21st justice, racial equality, and women’s rights. WILPF members have included Nobel Peace Prize Laureates such as Jane Addams, Dr. Linus Pauling, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Ashland branch of WILPF is a community of local women working together towards a common goal of peace and justice. Ashland WILPF are sponsors of the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil and International Women’s Day Celebrations. Meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at 1PM at the Ashland Library and are open to the public.

Visit a meeting and you will find a warm welcome. For more information, contact Jill Mackie at (541) 488-9286 or email: jmackie@mind.net



100 year anniversary 1915 - 2015

**Women’s Power to Stop War
Hiroshima / Nagasaki Vigil Aug. 6- 9 2014
International Women’s Day March 8, 2014**

Protests aim to block “NAFTA on Steroids”

BY BENJAMIN GERRITZ

In the U.S., the key to blocking the Trans-Pacific Partnership is to stop Congress from granting the president controversial “fast track” authority to sign off on it. Activists in Portland, Oregon, brought out the Light Brigade to make their point.

Workers across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico [united on Friday] in an Inter-Continental Day of Action to stop a massive new trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership—commonly referred to as “NAFTA on steroids.”

In the U.S., the immediate fight is to block a bill that would grant the president “fast track” authority to sign off on the TPP. Defeating fast track would likely stop the TPP.

Fast track is designed to swiftly pass trade deals, circumventing the standard Congressional procedures of hearings, debates, and resolutions.

But there has been considerable backlash against the undemocratic concept. In November, anticipating its introduction, 151 Democratic Representatives signed a letter to the president stating they were opposed and would vote no on fast track; 21 Republican Representatives also submitted an opposition letter.

Since the bill was introduced January 9, letters to Congress have flooded in from unions,

environmental protection organizations, food safety organizations, public health entities, domestic manufacturers, domestic agriculture, advocates for democracy, and internet freedom activists—all urging all representatives to publicly denounce the bill. Some 564 organizations signed onto a January 27 letter opposing fast track, submitted by Citizens Trade Campaign.

The last time Congress granted the president fast track authority, in 2002, it only passed the House by a slim two-vote margin.

Twenty Bad Years

Today’s marches, protest rallies, teach-ins, and mock funerals will highlight 20 years of failed trade policies.

When he signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, President Bill Clinton said the agreement would “create 200,000 jobs in this country by 1995 alone. Our administration will make this agreement a force for social progress as well as economic growth.”

Twenty years later, NAFTA has proven the complete opposite for all the countries involved.

By threatening to move operations south, corporations forced U.S. workers to accept wage stagnation—fueling income inequality. The Economic Policy Institute has calculated the U.S. lost 700,000 jobs because of the trade deal.

Together, NAFTA and the World Trade Organization resulted in the loss of one in four U.S. manufacturing jobs. U.S. trade deficits—how much more we are importing than we are exporting—have spiraled out of control, hitting \$350 billion or more every year since 2000.

NAFTA hasn’t brought the projected prosperity to Mexico’s workers either. According to the Pew Research Center, despite a moderate long-term rise in per-capita GDP, the share of Mexicans who live below the poverty line has not changed significantly



in recent decades: 53 percent in 1984, 51 percent in 2010.

Veil of Secrecy

Now the U.S. Congress is considering passing the TPP, which would encompass 12 countries—40 percent of the world’s tradeeconomy. President Obama calls it “a model for future trade agreements.”

Like NAFTA, the TPP has little to do with trade, and more to do with perpetuating a global race to the bottom for all workers. Of its 29 articles, only four deal with traditional trade issues such as tariffs and quotas.

One difference: this time the U.S. trade representative has been negotiating the TPP without the public exposure Bush and Clinton used to promote NAFTA. Negotiations have been conducted under a veil of secrecy. Six hundred corporate insiders sit at the negotiating table—while we the people are completely shut out.

Anyone, including members of Congress, who accesses the TPP is forced to sign confidentiality agreements restricting them from talking about the text. So the public has relied upon leaked copies from sources such as Wikileaks.

Benjamin Gerritz is a board member of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign and a member of SEIU 503’s Civil and Human Rights Committee.

Calling Congress, made easy: Visit StopFastTrack.com, type in your phone number, and they’ll call you and connect you to your reps...

Get health coverage in a SNAP

BY VIRGINIA CAMBEROS AND MICHELLE GLASS

January brings cold nights, morning fog, and hard times for a lot of hard working families trying to make ends meet in Jackson County. Fortunately, life just got a little easier for Oregonians who get a little extra help from our state’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and we want to make sure you know about it.

Did you know that the majority of folks who qualify for SNAP also qualify for the Oregon Health Plan? If you’re an uninsured SNAP participant and you qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, you should have already gotten a letter in the mail with a short two-page form to give your consent. It’s not too late to enroll, even if you have lost the letter.

Over one hundred thousand Oregonians have already filled out their form, and as of January 1, they now have access to prescription drugs, checkups, emergencies and hospital visits – they’re all covered. That means a truly healthier new year for thousands of Jackson County residents – especially those who have never had access to healthcare before.

It can be tough for folks to pay medical bills out of pocket. Unexpected medical bills can drive hard working families into debt. That’s why it’s more important now than ever to make sure you and your family gets health insurance so that you can get the care you need, when you need it, without breaking the bank.

If you are on SNAP and think you are eligible for Oregon Health Plan, but lost your letter or didn’t receive one, call 1-800-699-9075 – there are people who can help in both English and Spanish. There’s no cost to join, and you can’t be turned away for having a pre-existing condition so make sure you sign up.

Even if you don’t receive assistance from the SNAP program, you can still apply to see if you qualify for free or low-cost health coverage through Cover Oregon, our state’s new health care exchange

Financial assistance is available to many families earning too much to qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, such as tax credits to help offset the cost of buying insurance. And the best part is that you don’t have to figure it out alone. We are here to provide assistance and answer your questions. Call our office at 541-772-4029 to make an appointment for free assistance applying for health coverage.

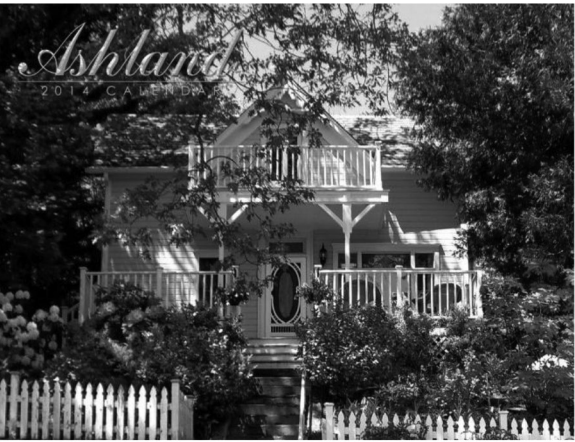
Virginia Camberos is regional organizer and Michelle Glass is outreach director for Rogue Valley Oregon Action, an advocacy group on economic issues affecting working people.

Award

CONTINUED FROM 6

hard worker when it came to demanding that people’s rights be respected. He was never afraid to step up and grab the megaphone and speak out, but he also never shied away from the grunt work that makes effective organizing possible, and he was almost ridiculously committed to seeing that that nuts-and-bolts work got done.”

Not too late for 2014 ASHLAND CALENDARS



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Strikers vow to continue to walk the picket lines until an acceptable contract is approved.

Strike

CONTINUED FROM 1

North. “The district abandoned that and called for the mediator.”

The mediator worked with both sides but was unable to resolve key differences between both parties. Despite this impasse, in mid-December the District voted to exercise their right to implement their own contract terms, forcing the teachers to accept or strike. “The district declared impasse and implemented their offer just before Christmas,” said North. “The snowball’s been growing ever since then.”

Shortly thereafter, the teachers of the Medford Education Association voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike.

On a cold, January evening, hundreds of community members packed the CMHS bleachers for a meeting of the Medford School Board. As teachers filed into the seats in the balcony, community supporters stood and applauded for well over ten minutes. Parents, business owners, community members

The District is in the process of training replacement teachers to be in the classrooms this week.

The first days of the strike have brought out hundreds of teachers, parents, city and county union workers and supporters who walk and stand along the length of sidewalk surrounding the Medford Central High school and District offices. Volunteers travel up the lines of teachers and supporters to deliver donuts and hot coffee donated from local businesses. Every few minutes a car or truck honks in support and drivers wave or give a “thumbs up” sign as they pass by. But tempers are starting to run high as some angry words are exchanged between some folks and security guards stand by to keep order.

“It certainly seems like the District is forcing a strike,” explains Cat Brasseur, a 4th Grade teacher at Howard Elementary with 18 years experience. “They’ve refused to negotiate further until we put this proposal to our membership.”


“Our goal has always been

Follow both sides on Facebook and Twitter.

Information from the Medford School District can be found the district’s website at <http://www.medford.k12.or.us>

Breaking news and informational pieces will also be posted on Facebook “Medford School District 549C”

Twitter@MSD549C



Information from Medford Education Association can be found on the website: www.iteachmedford.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/iteachmedford](https://www.facebook.com/iteachmedford)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/iteachmedford](https://twitter.com/iteachmedford)

table. The district is completely circumventing the professional voice of the teachers.”

Brasseur also accuses the District of negotiating bad faith in an effort to run out the clock in the bargaining process. “They have followed the timetable and have come to the negotiations not prepared to give us another proposal or negotiate really substantially, and so here we are.”

“What we see nationally is a real trend to try to privatize education and have it run by corporations and big money,” warns Brasseur. “We can no longer sit back and say it is not happening here”

At this date both sides seem



Over a thousand parents, teachers, students and concerned neighbors attend January Medford School Board meeting to share their frustrations on the lack of progress in labor negotiations with the teachers of the Medford Education Association



RVCP editor Vanessa Houk and Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice members Ivend Hollen and Wes Brain join with hundreds of teachers, workers and community members to support the first day of strikes in Medford.



Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and other unions join teachers on the picket lines last week.

and Medford students stepped up to the microphone urging the school board to invest in teachers, to negotiate fairly with teachers, and to make good on their prior commitments. One Jacksonville parent stated, “As a parent, I’m telling my children, work it out, apologize, and be fair...and that’s what I’m telling you tonight.”

Since then, the Medford school board declared a state of emergency, allowing for the superintendent to take speedy action while the strike is in effect.

to settle a fair contract and do what is right for teachers and the students that we teach.”said Brasseur. “We’ve come to the table every single time ready to bargain... and every instance the district has been unwilling to participate in that process.”

Brasseur points out that efforts by the District threaten to take away teachers input in their working environment. “There’s drive to remove the teachers, the professionals voice from the decision making

to be doubling down on their chances with a strike with both sides convinced they will see it through. At this point it is a battle for the hearts and minds. The teachers escalate their tactics by picketing the hotels of the replacement workers. The District continues to buy ads in the Mail Tribune and the battle continues on Twitter and Facebook.

As students return to classes this week with substitute teachers, schools will struggle to guarantee continuity

Take action to end the strike!

The quickest and easiest way for the Medford School Board to end a strike is by reaching a fair settlement immediately. The honest, open negotiation our community deserve cannot happen if both sides will not even sit in the same room together. The community is urged to contact the Board members and urge them to get back to the bargaining table and negotiate on all the issues.

Medford School Board Members

- Ron Andersen • 541-499-0049
ron.andersen@medford.k12.or.us
- Marlene Yesquen • 541-601-1459
marlene.yesquen@medford.k12.or.us
- Jeff Thomas • 541-773-6928
jeff.thomas@charter.net
- Tricia Prendergast • 541-941-2556
tricia.m.prendergast@gmail.com
- Larry Nicholson • 541-608-9249
larry@larrynicholson.com
- Sally Killen • 541-772-4575
jskillen@clearwire.net
- Kim Wallan4 • 541-776-2058
kjwallan@msn.com

To contact the Medford Education Association:
email : MEAorganizing@gmail.com

Medford and Portland districts sharing a strike playbook?

BY OREGON STRIKE INSIDER

Medford teachers go on strike. Portland teachers voted to potentially strike on February 20. Other than these strike votes, the districts have been ratcheting things up all the way. Common themes in district behaviors: Neither Medford nor Portland have been on strike before. # of initial contract “rollbacks” (contract takeaways) proposed at the start by the districts:

- Medford School District (MSD): 118
- Portland Public Schools (PPS): 78

Both numbers are unusually high.

- MSD declared an end to 150 days of direct bargaining.
- PPS declared an end to 150 days of direct bargaining. 150 days is the mandated minimum.

Direct bargaining could have continued.

- MSD demanded a state mediator.
- PPS demanded a state mediator.
- MSD declared impasse after 15 days of mediation.
- PPS declared impasse after 15 days of mediation. 15 days is the mandated minimum.

Mediation could have continued without



declaring impasse.

A declaration of impasse means a both parties must submit a final “best offer” and a cost estimate for that offer within seven days. MSD and PPS pushed for this “best offer” stage.

After the “best offers” are submitted, there is a 30-day cooling off period. After that cooling off, if an agreement is not reached, the employer may implement its proposal as if it is the new contract. The union’s option after a cooling off period is to declare a strike. Neither the employer nor the union need to implement or declare a strike. Bargaining can continue.

If any of the above escalation steps by the districts had

not happened, Medford and Portland would not be looking at strikes. Bargaining would still be going on. Students, families, and communities would be curious (or more likely blissfully ignorant) about bargaining. Now both Medford and Portland families are scrambling around to figure out what may be happening next.

Yet, in both districts, finances are basically stable. Portland has actually taken in an additional \$20 million in unexpected revenue. So, what’s the holdup to getting a deal?

Better ask the Medford and Portland school districts. They apparently have a plan. Everyone else is just living in it.

Details that Medford parents need to know...

According to the district, specialists and classified staff will continue to work in Medford schools as replacement teachers are brought in and trained.

Schools will reopen at specific sites on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The district will have more information on school sites, schedules and busing in coming days.

“I know this situation will create obstacles, but we are really working hard to minimize disruptions,” said Tania Tong, Supervisor of Special Education and Student Service for the Medford School District.

The Medford School District said its 18 special day classes, seven education service district programs, and all of its resource programs in each school will stay up and running throughout the strike.

Some special needs classroom will have to be relocated if their school shuts down during the strike. Plans are still in the works..

If you choose to send your child to school during the strike, children with special needs or allergies should have the information pinned on them for the substitute teachers’ awareness.

School district administration on Friday announced that school sports events would

go on during a strike, with substitute coaches. The district’s web page is already advertising for substitute teachers.

North and South High Schools will be offering childcare.

School employees will be staffing phone lines from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays to answer questions from parents and other community members. Assistance will be available for Spanish speakers. The hotline numbers are 541-842-1084, 541-842-1085, and 541-842-1086.

The strike will also affect students in afterschool activities with Kids Unlimited and the YMCA.

If parents choose to keep their children home during the strike, State law states that if a child is not enrolled for 10 consecutive days of school they are considered un-enrolled

According to MEA’s Rebecca Flynn-Williams, If the strike lasts past 13 days, the parents have two choices: 1.) Send your child to school on the ninth day and the 10 day countdown starts over again; or 2.) Parents may re-enroll them when the strike is over without punishment. This is protocol during the regular school year as well re: sick-time or vacation-time.

Parents may picket with teachers. Students can not stand with the teachers but can stand on their own or with a parent and teacher. Safety is of utmost importance as the teachers will be moving about, and are not permitted on school grounds so be careful of driveway entrances, stay on the sidewalks etc.

Portland teachers offer solidarity with MEA

BY PTSC

The Portland Teachers Solidarity Campaign (PTSC) sends greetings of solidarity to the Medford Education Association, and to all of the Medford and Rogue Valley labor and community groups who are rallying behind the MEA teachers as they seek a fair contract that protects teachers, protects students and protects public education in Southern Oregon.

PTSC is organizing parents, community members and students in solidarity with the teachers of the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT).

We understand the that the MEA teachers have struck today. We are 100% behind you.

Last night in Portland, the PAT teachers voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike here. Media are reporting a likely strike date of February 20 but we have not heard a date officially from PAT yet. PTSC and the Portland Student Union (PdxSU) organized a support rally in downtown Portland of over 300 people as our teachers went in to the vote. We are 100% behind them too. Earlier in the day PdxSU had organized actions at 5 of Portland’s 9 high schools

including three walkouts in each of which more than 200 students participated.

We know that Medford teachers would have preferred not to have to strike. We know you have engaged in protracted negotiations while working without a contract. We know you have had unreasonable terms imposed on you by the Medford School District. Striking was not your first choice, it was forced upon you. But at some point, too much is too much, and MEA teachers have reached that point. We salute the MEA teachers for standing up for yourselves, and salute your labor and community allies in the Rogue Valley for standing up with you.

The struggle in Medford is our struggle too. What is happening in Medford is not isolated. It forms part of a pattern that was visible in the teacher contract struggles in the Reynolds, Parkrose and Gresham-Barlow School Districts of East Multnomah County in 2012, which resulted in two strikes. That pattern is also visible today in the contract struggle to get a good contract from the Portland Public School District by the PAT, which has now led to a strike authorization.

Common elements in the pattern we see include highly aggressive bargaining approaches by the districts, backed by corporate management ideology, with demands for large concessions. Teachers face attacks for organizing to uphold strong workplace, workload and educational standards, along with decent pay and benefits for the skilled, difficult work they do.

Behind this pattern lie two intersecting agendas. On the one hand, fake school reformers push failed approaches to educational change, that use high stakes standardized student test results inappropriately to evaluate teachers, schools and districts. This kind of failed reform pits schools and districts against one another. It deprives schools and districts most in need of support of the resources they need. It takes money and time out of actual education to pay for and administer tests, while putting pressure on teachers to teach to tests unrelated to actual curriculum, disrupting and degrading the quality of education. This fake reform agenda is pushed by

interests that seek to privatize public education and profit from expensive, lucrative corporate testing and consulting rackets. Every dollar misspent that way takes money out of reasonable class sizes, classroom support, and on-site direct student services.

On the other hand, the rhetoric of the fake reformers folds into a wider attack against public sector workers across the board. The rhetoric seeks to blame teachers for problems really rooted in underfunding, restriction of the tax base for schools, and wider social problems. The wider anti-public worker attack was seen in the 2013 legislative session in massive cuts to public sector pensions. It is back in 2014 with the rise of a right-wing “right to freeloader” ballot initiative, that proposes to allow public workers to benefit from union collective bargaining without paying dues or agency fees.

The ultimate aim of that initiative is to deny organized workers in Oregon an effective voice in their workplaces and in

Strike

CONTINUED FROM 10

and quality of education.

“It will be an upheaval in our children’s education.” laments North. “They are going to be displaced somehow. Its not fair to kids and we completely understand that ultimately they are the ones that suffer in all this.”

But as North explains why her resolve is so strong. “If we do not fix this, and we do not stop this momentum it will continue and our education system will be lost.”

“We want to be in teaching our kids.” said North. “That is where our heart is and that is what we do.”



Issues

CONTINUED FROM 1

research. It also calls for the county to conduct inspections and allows enforcement through citizen lawsuits. In May 2014 voters will decide whether to ban genetically modified crops in Jackson County.

Fukushima - Perhaps one of the most underreported stories in 2013, the March 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daini nuclear power plant in Japan continues to be a worldwide concern. NBC reported that great numbers of starfish have disappeared and scientists can’t explain why whole species are completely gone. West coast fishing boats have left harbors, expecting to come back with sardines and instead have found that sardines have completely vanished as well. It doesn’t take a scientist to see that the nuclear run off into the Pacific Ocean has had a direct effect on these oceanic losses. Loss of human life is even harder to estimate as it is unclear how many casualties have happened as a result of radiation from the power plant. **Privacy**- The assumption that our privacy is safe in the hands of a bought government is being widely challenged. This year, we’ve been handed conclusive evidence that we are being watched. In addition to the petabytes of metadata and statistics that are being gathered on us by corporations with an interest to do so, government agencies funded with taxpayer monies are aggressively attempting to subvert our right to privacy. The excesses of domestic and foreign spy programs run by developed countries are only now being fully documented. Perhaps now people will start getting angry enough to do something about it. Or perhaps people will simply make it more difficult to be tracked.

Certainly our politicians are beginning to take notice as it is has been revealed that even Congress is not immune to surveillance efforts. Jeff Merkley issued the following statement after the President released a new policy directive on U.S. surveillance. “It is unacceptable that our government has indiscriminately swept up millions of cell phone records of law-abiding citizens. This is an outrageous abuse of Americans’ privacy... It remains to be seen whether significant changes will be made... Secret law cannot be tolerated in a democracy.”

Healthcare for all-Beyond Obamacare, When Oregon’s health care exchange website failed, Oregonians stepped up and processed the tens of thousands of applications the old fashion way... by hand. Thousands of health care “navigators” were trained and empowered to assist with the process and by late December, Oregon had enrolled

about 18,000 people. That’s more than 23 other states combined over the same time period.

Our healthcare system needs a complete overhaul. The Affordable Care Act is the equivalent of just barely opening up the front door. We want to get inside the building. The average hip replacement in the USA costs \$40,364. In Spain, it costs \$7,371. That means I can literally fly to Spain, live in Madrid for 2 years, learn Spanish, run with the bulls, get trampled, get my hip replaced again, and fly home ...for less than the cost of a hip replacement in the US.

If we took insurance companies out of the equation, we could use the 30% that is currently spent on administrative overhead and those dollars would provide adequate coverage for everyone in the USA. By firing the insurance companies (they can insure our cars and homes rather than making life and death decisions about our grandparents and our children), we’d be inside that hypothetical building. The infant mortality rate would go down. End of life care would improve for many and people wouldn’t lose their homes from medical bankruptcies.

Health Care for All Oregon - Rogue Valley is doing the work locally to ensure health care.

Income inequality in the USA-- The gap between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of us continues to be a topic worth exploring. A 2011 Census Bureau report said that almost one in three Americans were living in poverty between 2009-2011 and while the state of Oregon has minimally raised the minimum wage, this is not getting better.

Behind closed doors, congress continued to fail to reach an agreement on a 5 year Farm Bill reauthorization. When the dust finally settled earlier this month , the Farm Bill included an \$8.6 billion reduction in SNAP benefits. According to Pam Marsh from the Ashland Food Bank, within the state of Oregon about 23% of households receive food stamps. 27% or a little more than 1 in 4 Jackson County households rely on SNAP in order to make ends meet, so those reductions will be felt throughout this county and beyond. tinyurl.com/n73tb3w

Women’s Rights - A new report just released, The Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink, illuminates this economic plight that is seizing millions of American women but is frequently overlooked in our national discussions about poverty and inequality.

Women represent nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers, concentrated in jobs that tend to be labor-intensive. They go without paid sick days or access to affordable

child care. Moreover, women across the spectrum continue to earn less than men no matter the education level, profession or position -- a wage gap that is more like a gulf for women of color who earn 55 to 65 cents on the dollar compared with white men.

Add to this picture that 40% of our nation’s households with children rely on women as a primary or sole source of income, and it becomes easier to understand why it is so hard for many families to get ahead.

Another issue of critical concern is the attack on women’s reproductive health. Since 2011, the number of restrictions placed on abortion rights has been astonishing. According to Wonkblog, state legislatures passed 135 laws restricting abortion rights in 2011 and 2012 alone. Most of these restrictions target minors through requirements for parental involvement and extended waiting periods. Other attacks have come in the form of limiting abortion coverage by insurance companies, the banning of so-called partial birth abortion, mandatory ultrasounds being performed and shown to the mothers, and bans on post-20-week abortions.

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is holding an essay contest for middle and high school students. Student writers are asked to answer the question: What will the future look like when women have true equality? Compare this future whis women’s opportunities today. Cash prizes will be awarded for winning entries. See ad on page 15 for more information.

Jobs and the Economy - Jobs will continue to be an issue in the Rogue Valley as the local unemployment rate continues to hover around 10 percent. The Economist reports that an Oxford University study predicts that in the next twenty years 47% of jobs will be automated. As history has taught us, this means that jobs will become more specialized and eventually should begin the bridge the income gap. However this could take a long time to come to fruition. Jobs will continue to be a issue for the 2014 graduation class. An article from The Wall Street Journal reports that job prospects have worsened for recent college graduates over the past 15 years. Economists at the New York Federal Reserve found that the share of college graduates who worked in jobs without bachelor’s degree requirements totaled 44 percent in 2012. That’s lower than the 46 percent seen during the 1990-1991 recession, but well above the 34 percent “underemployment rate” for these young workers in 2001.

Legalizing It - After Colorado opened its doors to the legal marijuana business last month serving thousands of customers and racking up millions in taxed and regulated sales, the momentum of legalization in Oregon is on marijuana’s side. According to a poll taken in May, 57 percent of likely voters in Oregon support a proposal to tax, regulate and legalize marijuana for recreational use. Oregon has already decriminalized cannabis and legalized it for medical use. Marijuana legalization advocates in Oregon are approaching the issue from two sides, both pushing for a ballot initiative and lobbying state lawmakers for legislative action.

Trade agreements TPP There are very few issues that both sides of the political spectrum can agree on, but one that inspires general disgust is the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The TPP is a secretive, multi-national trade agreement that promises economic devastation, job loss and threats to our local sovereignty. Earlier this year, representatives introduced “Fast Track” legislation that would enable the TPP and other free trade agreements to be signed by the White House before the public gets to see them, and then rushed through Congress circumventing ordinary review, amendment and debate procedures. 51 House Democrats and 22 Republicans have expressed their concern with the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiation process and opposing the fast-track authority that the president wants for the final deal. Citizens Trade Campaign delivered a letter to Congress signed by 564 organizations opposing Fast Track for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). You can listen here to the January 22 issue of the Brain Labor Report where socialist activist and members of John Birch Society voice their opposition to the content, process and mechanism of TPP, the Trade Promotion Authority and “Fast Track” trade legislation.tinyurl.com/l8p6628

Immigration - Giving undocumented workers a clear path to US citizenship is the right thing to do. Immigration reform could set up procedures so that both high tech specialists and laborers who harvest crops could be here legally. A path to citizenship for undocumented young people who were brought into the US as children, those who are called Dreamers for their desire to continue their education, must be achieved. Locally, the Rogue Valley chapter of Oregon Action and UNETE is educating the public and organizing on immigration reform.

Drones - Unpiloted aircraft will soon be tested over Oregon by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA announced it had selected a joint proposal from Oregon, Alaska, and Hawaii to be among six newly designated drone testing sites across the U. S. In Oregon, the consortium plans to operate test ranges near Pendleton, Tillamook, and Warm Springs. Congress is requiring the FAA to integrate drones into the national airspace by 2015.

Media consolidation - Independent Media In a new wave of rapid media consolidation, large and unaccountable telecommunication corporations are gobbling up local television stations nationwide and devouring the interests of communities and unwitting consumers along the way. But it doesn’t have to be this way. When we have access to accurate information and a variety of viewpoints on issues, we are better equipped to form thoughtful opinions. We can engage in the democratic process, which makes our world a better place. For that to happen, we need local, independent media motivated by the public good, not their own bottom line. While the Daily Tidings is down to a few thousand subscribers, locally we are witnessing a growth of small, niche publications (including RVCP), local websites, independent radio and TV production. In April, we will celebrate our 10th annual Independent Media Week. Watch for more info on Indymedia Week in upcoming issues of RVCP.

Education - While education costs continue to rise, Oregon politicians are looking into making the first two years of community college free. Locally, organizers are looking to create an economic development center to provide opportunities for youth as well as community education and skill development. The students at SOU’s OSPIRG have pledged to organize on this issue.

Ways to plug in

With so many great organizing drives and causes to support it is hard to keep on top of everything. Fortunately we have some wonderful ways to stay informed, get organized and to coordinate and collaborate together. Here are are few easy way to get plugged in:

New Day Breakfast The New Day Breakfast is an opportunity to connect with our social justice community and enjoy a delicious breakfast. The

Solidarity

CONTINUED FROM 11

public debates. If the anti-public worker initiative succeeds, private sector union workers will be next.

Both the attacks on teachers, and the attacks on public workers generally, seek to demonize reasonable wages, salaries and benefits as “privileged.” Calling good wages and benefits a privilege really means setting living standards at below good. It means setting living standards below good all workers, public and private.

We in the PTSC understand that when teachers stand up for themselves, they stand up for the rest of us too. In the classroom, teachers’ working conditions are students’ learning conditions, and contracts that protect those conditions protect students. Teachers’ struggles also protect public education as an institution against the corporate privatizers, profiteers, and fake reformers. And teachers as workers holding the line on

adequate compensation and benefits forms part of the wider fight against a race to the bottom economy.

That is why we as students, parents, critics of corporate school deformation, trade unionists of all sorts, and members of the community at large, who understand the importance of teachers and education for everyone, and the need for all of us to defend decent standards of living, are rallying behind teachers. We came together in support of the East Multnomah County teachers in 2012. We are rallying around Portland teachers now in Portland. And we join the MEA’s Rogue Valley supporters in backing Medford teachers in their fight.

Solidarity Forever!

Portland Teachers
Solidarity Campaign



Activist warns days of eating Pacific Ocean fish are over

BY ERIK SHUTE
FOR NEWSY.COM

The aftershock of Japan’s disastrous earthquake and tsunami can still be felt by the continuous cleanup at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Two years of nuclear runoff spilling into the ocean have caused environmental activist Joe Martino to warn: “Your days of eating Pacific Ocean fish are over.”

His choice words on the activist website Collective Evolution are quantified in this infographic compiled by researchers at GEOMAR. The animation shows the dispersion of Cesium-137, a radioactive byproduct, will reach every corner of the Pacific by the year 2020.

Martino’s claim comes after the latest numbers by the Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, show more than 300 tons of contaminated water seep into the Pacific Ocean each day.

NHK News confirms: “A low wall surrounds tanks at

reactor No. 4. Workers found a puddle forming just outside it. Officials with Tokyo Electric Power Company says the water in one of the tanks dropped from 1,000 to 700 tons.”

Martino clarifies the severity of the new numbers, saying, “To give you an idea of how bad that actually is, Japanese experts estimate Fukushima’s fallout at 20-30 times as high as as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings in 1945.”

March 11, 2013, marked the two-year anniversary of the disaster. And while activists like Martino recount new numbers that continue to grow, other voices like energy consultant Mycle Schneider are asking for a call to action

On Friday, he wrote in CNN saying even Japan’s top brass see the slow-paced cleanup as “careless” and “shocking.”

So to save Japan’s coast and fishing community, Schneider says Fukushima “needs international help.” He proposes global liaisons compile a task

Wages

CONTINUED FROM 7

Gettel. “Now another increase to the minimum wage would help many more working families make ends meet.”

As workers across the country call for a higher wage floor, research shows that modest increases in the minimum wage do not dampen job creation, the main concern voiced by opponents of an increase.

“The weight of . . . evidence points to little or no employment response to modest increases in the minimum wage,” concluded a report released earlier this year by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a Washington, D.C. think tank. Their report reviewed two decades of research on the impact of minimum wage increases on employment.

“The time may be right for state and local officials in Oregon to consider raising the minimum wage,” said Gettel. “A higher wage floor is an effective anti-poverty strategy, and it can be implemented without affecting the job market.”

The Oregon Center for Public Policy is a non-partisan, non-profit institute that does in-depth research and analysis on budget, tax and economic issues. The Center’s goal is to improve decision making and generate more opportunities for all Oregonians.

force to hold Japan accountable for the cleanup.

However, Japan’s domestic problems could also be to blame for standstill. A report Friday from Bloomberg reveals clashes between Japan’s deep fishing culture and TEPCO aren’t making things move faster.

Currently, fishermen are butting heads with the Japanese energy company over a pipeline that could divert inland groundwater away from the Fukushima disaster area. This could possibly cut the amount of contaminated water reaching the Pacific by 25 percent, but Japan’s fisheries have yet to sign off on the deal. They worry the plan will spread radioactive water to clean areas.

With a limited supply of seafood, no one might hurt more than Japan’s population. The country imports more seafood than any other. Data from the United Nations shows 6 percent of the world’s fish harvest is eaten in Japan. Its citizens make up 2 percent of the global population.

On the street

BY KAREN JEFFERY

Whereby our roving reporter takes timely questions to people on the street.

This week I ran into lots of bright, creative, hard-working university students, home for the holidays, to ask:
What are your New Year’s resolutions?

Ronnie Morairty.
Medford.
Student at RVCC and sales associate. EMT, US Army



I’ve been thinking about this a lot. Mostly I want to be more open and less judgmental this coming year. I’m also hoping to break out of my routines. I would love to travel outside the US this year, and tops on the list is New Zealand. Oh, and I’d like to see more of my family.

Josh Franckowiak.
Eugene.
Lane College student



Number one is to follow through on my physical therapy for my knees. Then eat healthier...not like a college student. Also I’d like to spend more time studying Spanish, which I enjoy.

Sondra Mayer.
Medford.
Multnomah University student



My number one goal for 2014 is to hike the Pacific Crest Trail for a couple of weeks with my boyfriend. I’d like to get into Moody University, quit procrastinating, and have my boyfriend take better care of my stuff - car, apartment, etc.

Drew Van Vleck.
Los Angeles.
Student at Occidental College.
Barista



I’d like to get a good summer job and run a half marathon before I graduate. Oh yea...and Graduate! I also need to find a good place to live in New York City for the post-grad job I landed already.

Ikaika Cecil
Corvallis.
Oregon State University student. Sales associate at Radio Shack



I’m always changing it up and don’t really like to make year-end resolutions. The idea of changing with the calendar year seems too artificial to me. We need to change and re-calibrate all through the year. For me it’s not new year - new me, but new day - new me.

Karen Jeffery is a freelance writer, publicist, photographer, publicist, activist, and resource unlimited. Reach her at mauitutu@gmail.com.

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GMO-Free Jackson County Year in Review

BY BRIAN COMNES

2013 started off with a bang. As 2012 ended, GMO Free Jackson County had acquired 6700 signatures from registered Jackson County voters to qualify our GMO crop ban for the May 2014 ballot. The petitions were submitted to Jackson County officials on January 2, 2013, and on Jan 6 we were notified that we qualified for the May 20, 2014 primary. We achieved a very high rate of validity for signatures, nearly 90%. That means the petition gatherer training we held was effective and assured that we would qualify.

However, the empire struck back quickly. As citizens in several other Oregon counties were also preparing similar county-level bans, lobbyists for Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS) and the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) were hard at work introducing a statewide preemption bill, SB633, that would have denied all Oregon citizens the right to vote on “seed related” matters at the local level. Several local politicians were actually sponsors of the bill. In spite of being vocal proponents of “home rule”, they were willing to sell us all down the river denying their own constituents the right to vote. Well, with some luck, pluck, and good politicking, SB633 died in the legislature. There was a huge outpouring of sentiment on this issue: thousands of phone calls, emails and petition voices were delivered to Salem opposing SB633. You can all take pride in that victory -- but wait, there’s more.

Governor Kitzhaber, in a desperate bid to resolve PERS and other state issues, called a special session and offered Republicans and turncoat Democrats another chance to get the preemption bill they so badly wanted. The only catch was that SB863 (formerly SB633) carved out a one-time exception for Jackson County, allowing us and only us, to vote one time on our GMO crop ban ordinance. That means that we are the only county who has a ONE TIME chance to vote on this important issue! They even declared it an “emergency” legislation, with its effective date back dated to Jan 31, 2013, just to guarantee that no other County could ever vote on this issue. (However Josephine County is mounting a challenge to this legislation by proceeding with their own initiative). If we lose in May, we too will be bound by the state preemption.

The rest of 2013 was spent building community, with speaking engagements, tabling, public outreach and fundraising.

Make no bones about it. This will be an expensive election, with biotech corporations aware that the state, nation and world are watching this battle. They will spare no expense to defeat 15-119.

The ONLY way we will pass Measure 15-119 is with YOUR help. Please donate now, or sign up to volunteer, if you have not yet done so.

Protect your farms, food and future. Save family farms in Jackson County. Vote Yes on 15-119 on May 20!

The Oregon Trail Annual Migration Study Reveals Oregon As Top Moving Destination Of 2013

VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new study by the nation’s largest household moving company names Oregon as the state to which the most people relocated in 2013.

United Van Lines released its 37th annual migration study to The Associated Press. The company tracks the states its customers move to and from over the course of a year, including Washington, D.C., but excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

The study states 63 percent of interstate moves between Oregon and another state were inbound. It had been runner-up for four straight years.

Oregon was followed by the Carolinas. South Carolina had the second-highest percentage of inbound moves, then North Carolina. South Dakota was fourth and the District of Columbia fifth.

At the other end, New Jersey repeated as the state with the highest percentage of outbound moves, with 63 percent, followed by Illinois, New York, West Virginia and Connecticut.

United Van Lines vice president Carl Walter said the moving data has traditionally identified states that are attracting or losing residents.

The study showed that states in the West and Southeast are attracting more residents. Many states with high percentages of outbound moves are in the Northeast.

University of California, Los Angeles economist Michael Stoll said in the United Van Lines’ news release that business incentives, industrial growth and lower costs of living are attracting jobs and people to the West and Southeast.

Privilege

CONTINUED FROM 1

experiences were the same as hers when no, my family most certainly could not rent housing “in an area which we could afford and want to live.”

And no, I couldn’t go shopping without fear in our low income neighborhoods.

The idea that any ol’ white person can find a publisher for a piece is most certainly a symptom of class privilege. Having come from a family of people who didn’t even graduate high school, who knew not a single academic or intellectual person, it would never occur to me to assume that I could be published. It is an absolute freak anomaly that I’m in graduate school considering not one person on either side of my family has a college degree. And it took me until my thirties to ever believe that someone from my stock could achieve such a thing. Poverty colors nearly everything about your perspective on opportunities for advancement in life. Middle class, educated people assume that anyone can achieve their goals if they work hard enough. Folks steeped in poverty rarely see a life past working at the gas station, making the rent on their trailer, and self-medicating with cigarettes and prescription drugs until they die of a heart attack. (I’ve just described one whole side of my family and the life I assumed I’d be living before I lucked out of it.)

I, maybe more than most people, can completely understand why broke white folks get pissed when the word “Privilege” is thrown around. As a child, I was constantly discriminated against because of my poverty and those wounds still run very deep. But luckily my college education introduced me to a more nuanced concept of Privilege; the term Intersectionality. The concept of Intersectionality recognizes that people can be privileged in some ways and definitely not privileged

in others. There are many different types of privilege, not just skin color privilege, that impact the way people can move through the world or are discriminated against. These are all things you are born into, not things you earned, that afford you opportunities others may not have. For example:

Citizenship - Simply being born in this country affords you certain privileges non-citizens will never access.

Class - Being born into a financially stable family can help guarantee your health, happiness, safety, education, intelligence, and future opportunities.

Sexual Orientation - By being born straight, every state in this country affords you privileges that non-straight folks have to fight the Supreme Court for.

Sex - By being born male, you can assume that you can walk through a parking garage without worrying you’ll be raped and that a defense attorney will then blame it on what you were wearing. Ability - By being born able bodied, you probably don’t have to plan your life around handicap access, braille, or other special needs.

Gender - By being born cisgendered, you aren’t worried that the restroom or locker room you use will invoke public outrage.

As you can see, belonging to one or more category of Privilege, especially being a Straight White Middle Class Able-Bodied Male, can be like winning a lottery you didn’t even know you were playing. But this is not to imply that any form of privilege is exactly the same as another or that people lacking in one area of privilege understand what it’s like to be lacking in other areas. Race discrimination is not equal to Sex Discrimination and so forth.

And listen, recognizing Privilege doesn’t mean suffering

guilt or shame for your lot in life. Nobody’s saying that Straight White Middle Class Able-Bodied Males are all a bunch of assholes who don’t work hard for what they have. Recognizing Privilege simply means being aware that some people have to work much harder just to experience the things you take for granted (if they ever can experience them at all.)

I know now that I AM Privileged in many ways. I am Privileged as a natural born white citizen. I am privileged as a cis-gendered woman. I am privileged as an able-bodied person. I am privileged that my first language is also our national language, and that I was born with an intellect and ambition that pulled me out of the poverty I was otherwise destined for. I was privileged to be able to marry my way “up” by partnering with a Privileged middle-class educated male who fully expected me to earn a college degree.

There are a million ways I experience Privilege, and some that I certainly don’t. But thankfully, Intersectionality allows us to examine these varying dimensions and degrees of discrimination while raising awareness of the results of multiple systems of oppression at work.

Gina Crosley-Corcoran is the author and advocate behind TheFeministBreeder.com and contributing author to the recently released anthology “The Good Mother Myth” (Seal Press, 2014). Gina is also a doula, speaker, and Master of Public Heath candidate. She lives in Chicagoland with her husband and three small children. www.thefeministbreeder.com



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Homeless solidarity: a survival guide

BY ASHLAND SLIM*

Having just recently gotten out of an almost year-long homeless situation that had me contemplating joining the military or suicide as a way out, I would like to compile a list of things essential to surviving homelessness, especially in the winter. In addition, for the vast majority that are not homeless, this will serve as a dual-guide to what you can give and do for homeless individuals.

I was very fortunate in that I had a car to sleep in, but as most of us know, not every homeless person has that luxury. In fact, the vast majority you might encounter will not have a vehicle.

The goal for the intangible goods section is perhaps the most important, as it boosts morale and a sense of self-worth in a persons normally miserable existence. The goal for the material goods section is both as a basic-necessities survival guide for homeless people, as well as perhaps a recommendation for the more affluent among us to put together these resources listed into a backpack and distribute them to homeless people in your local community.

Intangible goods: Even if you have nothing to give, please acknowledge that the homeless individual you encounter actually exists and is a person (not a charity case, not a burden on society, but an actual person. This should go without saying, tho

unfortunately it often does not). Aside from those who have actually experienced homelessness, you cannot comprehend the mental anguish and misery caused by the knowledge that most people will not look you in the eye or acknowledge your existence, care if you die, and will not go out of their way in the slightest to help you out. This is a very small {thing}, but perhaps one of the most important items in this list.

Conversation. Just sit down and talk to them or get to know them. This means a lot to people who are literally and figuratively stepped over day in and day out. It can also be a very enriching experience to just listen to somebody talk.

Recognize that “mental illness” not only is a major factor in why people are homeless, but homelessness can actually breed such ailments. As such, do not expect homeless people to behave “normally”. I know this first hand in how I began treating people in relation to how they treated me differently, as if I was a charity case or someone to be pitied. I had several emotional breakdowns which inevitably alienated many good people from my life and left me in a condition I would rather never experience or think about again.

A physical address. Even if you cannot offer a room, bed or couch to homeless people, letting them use your physical address on a job application

can do wonders if they have a desire to find a job. (and please, lets not argue about wage labor in this thread. some homeless people have no such desire, and that is perfectly respectable. but for the vast majority, slaving for minimum wage is preferable to freezing in the streets.)

Material goods:

- Clothing, warmth & storage:
- Backpack
 - Mylar emergency blanket
 - Long undergarments
 - Long socks
 - Beanie
 - Gloves
 - Keffiyeh (has many uses other than as a scarf, including emergency tourniquet and storage)
 - Poncho or winter / rain coat

Food:

- Multi-tool with a bottle opener, can opener, and knife (or maybe even a spork!)
- Spork (if not included in multi-tool)
- Sturdy water bottle

Hygiene:

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss / dental picks
- Soap (bar and small bottle liquid soap)
- Washcloth / towel
- Small mister bottle
- Witch hazel & tea tree oil
- Deodorant

Misc:

- Small first aid kit
- Cell phone
- Emergency USB charger that runs on AA batteries or solar power
- Lighter and/or windproof matches
- Pepper spray (for defense against predators of the poor)
- Pencil / pen and notepad
- Paracord rope
- Tarp
- Ziplock bag
- Safety pins (to hold together clothes, backpack, or other items falling apart due to use)

All of this should be able to fit in a single large backpack and if you are thrifty should cost less than \$150. Pretty cheap considering it could save a person’s life or even help them into a better situation.

In love & solidarity, please do all you can for the people on the margins of society!

Ashland Slim is a pseudonym used to protect the author’s privacy. Article reprinted with permission.

Amnesty International radio show debuts on KSKQ 89.5 FM

Human Rights Now! is about raising awareness of human rights violations around the world that have been identified by Amnesty International. Don Wertheimer and Dennis Remick discuss the issues on the program, revealing the facts and encouraging individual and cooperative action to aid in their positive resolution.

Listen to Human Rights Now every Tuesday at 11:30 am exclusively on KSKQ 89.5 FM. and streaming live at www.kskq.org.



Dennis and Don are joined by Marvin Woodard, Multi-Cultural Resource Center and Diversity Scholarship Coordinator at Southern Oregon University,



International Women’s Day 2014 Essay Contest for middle school and high school students.

What will the future look like when women have true equality?

Compare this future with women’s opportunities today.

Rules: Essay must be related to the theme. Essay must be original work. Essay must be between 500-600 words.

Awards: Each award will go to one high school and one middle school winner.

- Two first prizes: \$100
- Two second prizes: \$75
- Two third prizes: \$25

Contest winners will be invited to a public awards ceremony on March 8th where their essays will be read. Attendance is not mandatory to receive award.

Please attach this form/information to your entry.

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

I certify that this is my own original work.

Sign and Date _____

Deadline Friday, February 21st Questions? Contact Eileen Dunn at 541-613-3021 or email dreidu@hotmail.com

Mail attached form and essay entry to:

**Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
% Eileen Dunn
1111 Oak Street Ashland, OR 97520**

Ashland CERT offers emergency prepared business workshops

Ashland Fire & Rescue and Ashland Community Emergency Response Team are pleased to announce a new program aimed at providing skill-based training to local businesses to be prepared during disasters. We have partnered with the Ashland Chamber of Commerce to offer a series of free workshops open to the public aimed at informing and guiding businesses based on their uniqueness’s into professional preparedness by building a culture of readiness. Workshop will focus on identification and assessment of hazards, risks, and human, property, and business impact while assessing internal and external resource potential. Assistance will be provided in developing

a business safety statement and in gaining an understanding what is needed when your business is faced with a potentially disastrous situation. Ashland businesses who participate to the full level of program participation will don an insignia in their storefront indicating they are a proud emergency prepared business. The program strides to build business sustainability through preparedness and leadership when disasters strike.

Workshops dates will be Wednesday, February 19 and March 19 from 5:30-7:30 PM at Ashland Fire & Rescue Station 1.

For more information contact Ashland CERT at 541-552-2226 or www.ashlandcert.org



Events

March First ! CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER for Rogue Valley Community Press

March 1st, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Talent Community Center
208 East Main Street - Talent

Live Music • Free Food • Silent Auction
Celebrate our Community Press

Sponsored by Occupy Medford, D.U.D.E. and many others...

Bodacious Ball celebrates community, diversity

The Bodacious Rainbow Ball is entering its 5th year. This community-wide dance celebrating diversity is hosted by the Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (RVUUF), on February 21st at 87 4th St, Ashland, OR 97520 (at C St). The dance is held in the “Great Hall”. Proceeds from the ball benefit Lotus Rising Project, the youth-led social justice organization that supports GLBT young people.

The Blue Lightning Dance Band will begin playing in the Great Hall at 7:00 PM and the party will rock until 10:00 PM.

General admission for this

tobacco, alcohol, and drug free event for all ages is \$15 and a student ticket is \$5. Children under 12 are free and childcare will be available. Tickets will be available at the door. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

This year’s co-sponsors of the Bodacious Rainbow Ball are: Lotus Rising Project, Rogue Valley Lavender Womyn, Southern Oregon Pride, SOU Queer Resource Center, United Church of Christ - Ashland, Trinity Episcopal Church - Ashland, Havurah Shir Hadash - Ashland, Temple Emek Shalom, and the South Mountain Friends Meeting (the Quakers).

If you have an event, announcement
or call to action, let us know!

Email to editor@rvcommunitypress.com
or call our hotline

541-622-9483.

Climate action group sponsors “Do The Math” movie

International agreements acknowledge the principle that to protect future generations from inheriting an unlivable planet we must hold our global temperature increase below 2 degrees Centigrade (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). Accepting this premise demands that we leave between two thirds and four fifths of the known fossil fuels reserves in the ground. During his nation-wide “Do The Math” tour in 2012, 350.org founder Bill McKibben made the case for our need to harness the helter-skelter rush to global disaster. “Do The Math: The

Movie” provides a summary of that tour.

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (<http://socan.info>) will show “Do The Math: The Movie” during the regular monthly general meeting on February 25th starting at 6:00 pm at Medford Public Library (205 S. Central Avenue). The movie will last approximately 45 minutes and be followed by a brief discussion. The regular SOCAN general meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

The science of climate change is clear: we understand that the planet is warming and that the probable cause is human emissions of greenhouse gases (mainly carbon dioxide).

International agreements resulted in recognition that a global atmospheric warming of over 2 degrees Centigrade would be devastating for natural systems (including forests and fisheries) and human agricultural systems. The World Bank concurs with this assessment. Analyses of the current concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere compared to its impact indicate that we cannot increase that concentration substantially without exceeding the politically acknowledged safe limit. The math is clear. If we wish to hand down to future generations a livable planet we absolutely must leave in the ground the majority of known fossil fuel reserves.

Furthermore, if we examine the fossil fuel reserves available in terms of the key criterion of extraction / processing

efficiency, Energy Returned On Energy Invested (EROEI), we find that the most inefficient oil to extract are tar sands and shale oils. Since their EROEI is barely above 1, they should remain in the ground. If the criterion that we should avoid

Roller Derby Season Opener

On Saturday, March 1st, the Southern Oregon Rollergirls will take on the Humboldt Roller Derby Widow Makers for a bout that is sure to leave you on the edge of your seat! Bring your friends and family to the Medford Armory and show some love for the Southern Oregon Rollergirls!

Doors open at 6 pm and the bout starts at 7 pm at the Medford Armory. The Armory is located at 1701 South Pacific Highway in Medford.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets for the bout can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com or at any of the following locations: Jack’s Board House in Medford, Eternal Art Tattoo in Grants Pass, Dragon’s Lair in Grants Pass, 3 Penny Mercantile in Ashland, and Mystic Treats in Ashland.

For more information about the Southern Oregon Rollergirls, call 541-690-6658, email southernoregonrollergirls@gmail.com, go to sorollergirls.org, or visit their page on Facebook.

techniques posing potential environmental and human health hazards is added, fuels obtained via hydraulic fracturing (fracking) would also be included among the resources to be left in the ground.

Issues

CONTINUED FROM 12
New Day Breakfast takes place on the third Friday of the month. A potluck breakfast begins at 8 AM. After socializing and eating, the presentation starts at 8:30, followed by Q&A at 8:50. Starting at 9 AM, we will have time for announcements, requests for collaboration and other issues. For details, visit roguevalleynewdaynetwork.org

Peace House Newsletter

The best local, online source for the latest social justice news and events. <http://alturl.com/8j7zs>

Rogue Valley Community Press

Your community newspaper
rvcommunitypress.com

KSKQ 89.5 FM

KSKQ strives to provide opportunities for the community to plug in. Tune in to 89.5 FM every morning from 7-9 am to get the latest news, weather and interviews. Plug in with your groups for PSAs, interviews and event notifications. www.kskq.org

Racial equity workshop planned

SAVE THE DATE:
March 18, 2014

Building unity, power and justice with a racial equity framework. Speakers include Kaysa Jama, Center for Intercultural Organizing Dr Sheley Secrest, Pacific Northwest NAACP and Alliance for a Just Society.

Sponsored by Oregon Action, Alliance for a Just Society and Center for Intercultural Organizing.

Social Network

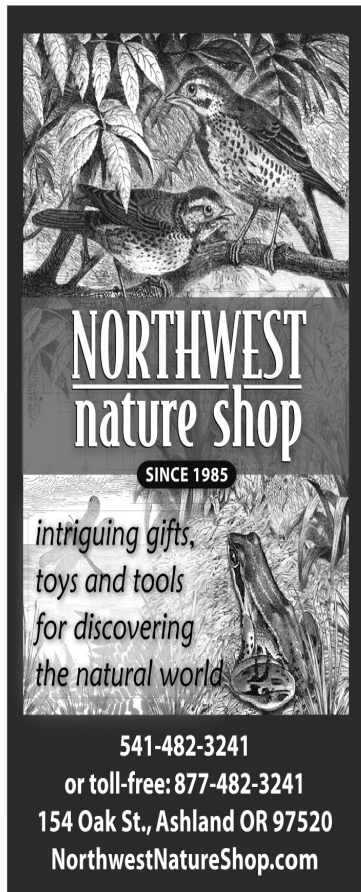
The latest on local websites and online communities

FACEBOOK - Giving Back in Southern Oregon

A group set up to help one another. No selling, it’s all free. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/1506130282946397>

WEBPAGE -Health Care for All Oregon - Rogue Valley

The Rogue Valley chapter of Health Care for All Oregon has a new website. HCAO-RV is working to create a comprehensive, equitable, publicly funded, high quality, universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States. <http://hcao-rv.org/>



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